

Select Board Minutes December 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Donald Burke. Present were Select Board members Marlene Libby, Scott Wiley and Donald Burke. Also present were Webmaster Peter Beckett, Lorie Costigan, Fred Brown, Jen Pendleton and John Fenner.

Minutes of December 1, 2015 were accepted as corrected.

Road Commissioner:

Road Commissioner Starrett will be ditching the backside of the parking lot and will shut the oil line to the tank off to insure there will be no accidents. Select Board Member Burke reported a culvert at the intersection of Campground Road and Rte 105 was in need of attention but Starrett said it is a State responsibility and he has notified them. The driveway issue on Snow Hill Road has been alleviated.

Select Board:

Draft articles for a special town meeting tentatively set for January 12, 2016 were worked on again, but not completed.

Warrants # 46, 47 & 48 were signed,

Confusion over the email addresses of the Select Board members resulted in agreement by all that access to the selectmen@tidewater.net address was sufficient. Password and instructions for accessing the email will be provided.

The dates for the annual town meeting were set for Tuesday, June 14, 2016 for voting and 7:00 PM Wednesday, June 15, 2016 for the open town meeting. Dates for the 2016/17 budget meetings had been set for 7:00 PM, April 7, 2016 for the municipal budget, and 7:00 PM, April 14th & 21st for the school budget.

The purchase of a new fireproof file cabinet for assessing records listing for \$989 was not discussed, as the availability of funds in this year's budget had not been researched yet.

Libby questioned why cemetery deeds had not been prepared yet and Burke responded that we did not have the grantees names yet.

Libby suggested that there are ways to go after delinquent personnel property taxes, such as filing UCCs or small claims court, going back to 2006, beginning with a letter from the tax collector.

Burke had requested a copy of the list of commercial properties prepared by Becky and presented it to the Board. The Board members were not familiar with it and Burke's opinion was that it was not an assessing tool and every person on the list should not be assessed a commercial baselot.

A 400 page manuscript ledger of old Hope Town records has surfaced, and includes records for the portion of Appleton which was part of Hope until 1845. The Board agreed that the office should have a bound copy kept with Appleton records.

Vacation schedules for office staff were approved.

Libby reported that she has spoken with Maine Municipal Association and they said the Public Access Officer is usually the Town Clerk.

A Freedom of Information request has been made by Attorney Riley Fenner for all abatements granted by the Board going back to 2016.

Select Board Member Scott Wiley brought up again the offer by Union's Highway Supervisor Orrin Parker to plow and sand the section of Rte 131 from the Union Town Line to the intersection of Rte 105, as that will be a snowplow turnaround for their trucks, saying that many towns have similar agreements that are not in writing.

Lorie Costigan questioned why the agenda was not posted on the website 24 hour prior to the meeting.

Lorie Costigan wanted to know why the office isn't open to the public the whole time staff is here. Libby asked about the history of setting the hours. Burke said the hours had been set years ago and he did not remember when. As it was late, the issue was not discussed with the staff but will be on next week's agenda.

On a motion by Burke and seconded by Wiley, (voted 3-0) the Board went into executive session to discuss a general assistance application.

On a motion by Burke and seconded by Wiley, (voted 3-0) the Board went out of executive session.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Minutes prepared by D. Burke