

**Select Board
Minutes
July 29, 2014**

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm Present: Rich, Peter, Julie, Margie, Lisa, JoAnn Mully, and David Detmold

Firefighters (joining the meeting was Judy Weinthalder and Dean Alfange from the Fire Dept. Study Com. and firefighters Shelly Hicks, Jon Foster, Marty Moore, and John Moruzzi)

During this year's reappointments it was noted that 3 of the Fire Department's most senior members will be over 65 this year. To address the some of the potential issues that can arise as a public safety officer ages the Town decided to add a "hold harmless" agreement to the reappointment slips. This idea (recommended by some of the firefighters) stemmed from an article in the newspaper about the Town of Rockport which faced the same dilemma. After signing the agreement firefighters over 65 would hold the town harmless in certain situations in which they should not be participating; situations which may cause undo harm or injury to the firefighter or their other members. Additionally the Town will require annual physicals for firefighters over 65.

Peter and Rich reported that they met with John Moruzzi (Chief) about a year ago to discuss the issue of the aging department and its other (young and not as experienced) members. At that time they asked John to come up with a long-range plan/vision, along with an estimated retirement timeline and job descriptions for the department. Additionally, the Board then appointed a Fire Department Study Committee to aid in the research and possible scenarios for the department. The study committee issued a report earlier this year with suggestions. As of tonight's meeting nothing has been received from John.

The Select Board felt that since no direction was being provided by the Chief that they needed to step in and protect the Town and the Fire Department. After much discussion it was decided that separate job descriptions were needed that would outline what jobs/tasks could and could not be done by firefighters over 65. This list would also be provided to their doctors at their annual physical. Margie will draft job descriptions and the personnel board will meet to review them. It will then be up to individual firefighters to sign the hold harmless agreement and stay on the department, or not.

Transportation

Roy Kimmel came in to present a proposed Newsletter article and response to individuals who responded to the Newsletter survey concerning public transportation. He received 15 responses and stated that Leverett is not ready for a fixed route. He did mention that people in town may need help with transportation to medical appointments in Greenfield due to the current Regional Transportation glitch preventing Leverett from belonging to more than one transportation authority. Roy has driven someone to Greenfield recently for a medical appointment and would like more volunteers. He would also like to set up a carpooling website where Leverett residents could arrange carpooling. Roy will put an update in the Oct. 1 newsletter. David Detmold disputed the law cited by Roy and said he has Rep. Kulik's support in that. Margie will follow up with Kulik.

Business:

The minutes of July 8 were approved as written.

The board agreed to keep the current spelling of Teawaddle Hill Rd. Historically it has been spelled both ways.

The Transfer Station will remain closed on Wed. evenings for the rest of the summer due to scheduling issues. The board discussed the possibility of consolidating the hours spread across three days to one day for ease of hiring someone. They also asked Margie to look into the cost of trash pick-up. They also requested police coverage for Wednesdays to discourage dumping.

The Town will soon have solar energy credits created by the solar installation to sell. Margie was given the name of Carter Wall, a town resident, who is also an energy broker. Carter told Margie that she would charge a 1-2% broker fee for the town. HCOG provides the same service but charges 5-7%. Annually the town hopes to generate \$3-4,000 in solar credit revenue.

The Broadband Committee recommended granting the ISP contract for the fiber project to Crocker Communications. The service cost (before MLP costs) will be \$24.95 for phone only or internet only and \$44.95 for both together. There will be incentives for pre-subscription. Peter told the board that the first informational meeting will be held on Aug. 21 at the school at which time people can sign up for service.

Margie shared letters she's been getting from the HOCG and DPU concerning electricity aggregation. There were many questions addressed to the town in a letter from the DPU that Margie could not answer. She then got a letter from HCOG stating that they were answering questions on behalf of the town. Margie will email the letters to the Energy Com. and the Select Bd. for review. Peter stated that before any paperwork is signed he wanted to know how the aggregator will handle net-metering and how, after the 30 day opt-out period, someone can get out if they aren't happy with the program.

The Resiliency Grant that Margie applied for was received. It provides technical assistance for a solar installation to assist the back-up generator for the Safety Complex and School. Contract paperwork was signed.

COA grant application was signed. The board sked Margie to pass onto the COA that they should talk to John K, facilities manager, before buying anything for, or installing anything in the Town Hall.

Police Chief employment contract was signed. Margie also said that Gary told her he intends to stay for 2 more years and that his payroll was mixed-up for the third year in a row.

DCAMM evaluation for Diversified Construction was signed.

Meeting adjourned at 10: 12

Minutes taken by Lisa Stratford

