

**Select Board
Minutes
December 8, 2015**

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm

Present: Peter D; Julie S; Tom H; Margie M; Lisa S; Tom M (interested resident) Tia F (Montague Reporter)

Ananda Larsen- Transfer Station

Ananda informed the board that the Town received a \$7500 grant from DEP towards half the purchase of a paper compactor. Ananda said that this was a competitive grant and she was delighted to receive it. She also stated that a new concrete pad would need to be built at a cost of \$4500; should the Town decide to accept the grant. She stated that she could pitch in about \$1400 from her budget to defray the total cost. The pay back is estimated at about 4 years. This will mean a \$10,000 capital expense. Peter asked her to write to DEP and say that she is taking it to Town Meeting.

She also stated that she would like the station to be open for more hours and on a week day. She would like one weekend day and one week day. The hauling situation is very problematic when the station is only opened on weekends; with back-to-back weekend days when hauling is unavailable. Peter also mentioned that the work schedule would be more appealing to people.

Julie asked if the prices should be increased. Ananda stated that they will be changing the bulky waste fees and that an increase in sticker prices wouldn't be a bad idea.

John Ingram- Fire Department

John gave the board an update on the Nov. and Dec. calls and trainings. He also presented the board a memo about the problematic lack of cell phone service. Peter gave him an update stating that AT&T, though they have permission have yet to follow up with construction of a tower on Rt. 63.

John was very concerned about the way an additional 2% cut would affect the services of the Fire Dept. (In a recent memo the board requested a 2% cut for FY17 for all departments). He would like the department to get certification as a First Responder Agency, which costs \$300. He would also like to carry Narcan and Epi-pens which are not cheap, though lifesaving. The board encouraged him when creating his budget to note/justify all requests and the board will deal with them as the budget process progresses.

A SCBA grant was approved through Fire Services.

A \$1,978 for brush gear and helmets was received from DCR.

Two fire fighters graduated from Fire Training with the Montague Center Station.

John was given permission by the board to start a Facebook page for the Fire Dept.

The department will be receiving two surplus vehicles from UMASS for an estimated combined cost of less than \$1,000, to paid from the Fire Dept. budget and will get rid of two older surplus rescue vehicles.

John is increasing the inspection fee for smoke detectors from \$25 to \$50.

John was wondering if it was possible to get any flexibility in the wording of the revolving acct. article. Margie will look into.

Lastly John expressed concern about the approaching winter with no one staffing the Highway Dept. There was some confusion about who to call during a recent accident and he was wondering who will be making sure that fuel tanks are topped off.

Carol Heim-building lots

Carol was looking for the board's input about a lot near her house that was recently changed by a previous owner from a wetland to a handsome building lot through some illegal activity. She had met with the ConCom last night to discuss the issue. The board encouraged her to continue discussions with the ConCom and perhaps get some questions answered by a realtor.

Business:

The minutes of November 11 and 24 were approved.

Lisa will email Barbara Tiner and Portia Weiskel to see who wants to participate in Pipeline Coalition meetings as our representative.

The same hiring committee will be used to screen Highway Supt. candidates as last time with the exception of Will Stratford who declined.

The issue of Smart Metering was sent to the Energy Committee.

The board discussed but felt that a water bubbler upstairs was unnecessary.

Peter forwarded Jim Hawkins statement to Lewis Sckolnick about his property. Lewis claims he needs to fill out new paperwork. It is in Lewis' hands now.

The board will read the Technical Assistance letter and let Margie know of any priorities.

A final MSBA letter to the SBA outlining our project and requesting the make some changes to their process was signed.

The board discussed meeting every other week instead of the 2nd, 4th, and 5th. They would like to address it again at the next meeting.

Julie gave an update of the 4-town meeting and the annual Shutesbury drama to the reporter. She will follow-up with the editor to make sure the details of the Regional School budget are thoroughly presented.

The board decided not to hold Town Meeting on April 30. Date TBD.

Chapter 90 reimbursement forms were signed for Monatgue Rd.

Thank you's were signed.

Julie gave an update about language in the MGL that allows towns to allot money to cemeteries. The board had decided not to budget \$1,100 this year for cemeteries but Julie informed the board that there

is push back from the cemetery associations. The board will readdress when budget process is nearing the end to decide if the town can afford to leave it in.

The board agreed that in the event of snow Richie or Jen Roberts will call Silas to tell him it is time to go out to plow or sand.

Tom updated the board about his recent visit to the Highway Dept. as it's liaison.

The mail was read.

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 pm.

Minutes taken and recorded by Lisa Stratford