

**Select Board
Minutes
October 18, 2016**

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm

Present: Tom H., Julie S., Peter d., Margie M., Lisa S., Ken K., Kip F., Rob (Montague Reporter)

Ken Kahn met with the board as the new Planning Board Chair. He gave the board an update on the Planning Board's business. They are in the process of writing a new bylaw that would move the granting authority for solar projects from the Planning Bd. to the Zoning Bd. They are also looking closely at loosening the restrictions on 2-family and accessory dwellings.

Kip Fonsh (as former School Committee member and representative to the Regional School Committee) wanted the board to know that he has no tolerance for Shutesbury trying to manipulate the surrounding towns with respect to the regional agreement. The board assured him that they do not intend to enter into any agreement other than offering to go back to the original formula should Shutesbury try another negotiation.

Police Chief Hiring Process (also present Gary Billings Bob and Belinda McDowell)

Julie told the board that the Personnel Bd. had just met and adopted the following policy: the Select Board may, at its discretion, waive the 7 day posting period and promote from within for a qualified candidate. She reported that the Personnel Board was in favor with one abstention. Tom expressed extreme displeasure as at the last meeting he had commented that to do so was gravely unfair. The position was never advertised in the newspaper, only on the upstairs Town Hall bulletin board which complies with our Personnel Policy prior to the aforementioned change. He was additionally irritated that the Personnel Board had passed such a policy in the middle of the hiring process for a new police chief. He stated that to do so was "blatant unfairness of the process." The Select Board opted to leave the posting on the Town Hall bulletin for an additional 7 days. The board will decide on next steps in the hiring process at the Nov. 1 meeting.

Business:

The minutes of the October 4 meeting were accepted as written.

Margie reported that the MLP had requested an RFP for the ISP and received two bids. They chose to go with the low bidder, OTT Communication from Maine. Hopefully the only changes subscribers will notice in a new contact phone number and new billing information.

Margie submitted a new EMPG grant for radios for the Fire Dept. for \$2,460.

The copier recently needed repair and was about a week beyond its service contract. The repairman noted that it was still young in its copier life but was about to need another more expensive repair in the next few months. Margie called Ricoh and another contract would cost about \$450/year. The Select Board approved that expense.

Lisa suggested that it is time to appoint a Records Access Officer and decide how the town will handle the new Public Records Law as she had recently been to a training. It was decided to discuss this again and make a to-do-list after Margie and Peter attend the training November 10.

The board opted to wait until January to set a date for ATM.

Margie updated the board on the Highway Garage project. There was a change order that reduced the overall price. The board would like to use the excess to fix the cement corner of the building.

John K. asked Margie to tell the board that he is concerned about the old library building. The board suggested that he make a list of critical issues and that Edie apply for CPA funds.

The board would like to meet with the Capital Planning Committee to discuss changes in the schedule.

Julie gave an update on the Affordable Housing Trust. They would like to implement a down payment assistance program in addition to the Home Buyers Assistance Program.

The board will meet in executive session November 1 with Will and Lisa Stratford.

The mail was read.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm