

Select Board  
Minutes  
July 28, 2015

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Leverett Town Hall, 7:00 pm

Present: Select Board Members: Julie S.; Peter d.; Tom H.; Lisa, Clerk; Margie, Town Admin., Tom M. resident

**Regionalization** (Ann D. also in attendance)

Kip Fonsh (School Com. rep. to the Regional School Committee) came in to update the board on the regionalization issue which has been ongoing for the last several years. Kip reported that a contentious vote (5 in favor, 4 opposed) was taken on June 25 to move the regional agreement on to legal counsel for review. In Kip's opinion Shutesbury remains resistant. The vote that was taken made no mention of what was to happen with the legal copy of the new regional agreement once it had been reviewed so Kip made a motion (which carried 5-4) to adhere to the following timetable: June-August revised agreement is finalized, Sept. to December, the Chair of the Regional School Com. leads discussions based on the legal draft and works with Town officials to schedule informational meetings and get feedback, January and February, the Regional School Committee reviews draft with feedback and gets a final copy to towns by March 1.

Additionally, Kip explained that the implementation of the new agreement requires two votes by each town. One to agree to revise the agreement and the second involves whether to join in the newly created region. Kip wanted to know if the Select Board agreed with moving the votes to the towns and if when he speaks he can assume he is doing so on their behalf. **Motion: To support the effort to bring the votes concerning regionalization to the 4 Towns for their votes. Vote: 3-0 in favor.**

Kip also raised the concern that one town voting against the changes to the regional agreement would kill the idea for the rest and raised the possibility of legal action or requesting special legislation to allow that the revised agreement not require a consensus vote. The Select Board emphasized the importance of media coverage on this issue. Kip will call Lisa in September to schedule another update at which time Lisa will make sure that a reporter from the Montague reporter is present.

**Cave Hill Rd. intersection and water issues**

Will Stratford and Rich Brazeau came in to discuss the options for correcting the turn that is causing buses and large trucks problems due the degree of the turn onto Montague Rd. Rich reviewed a map detailing the drainage issues and utility poles that would need to be moved and how the new intersection would look. The estimated cost for the correction is about \$40,000. Peter asked about the bridge on N. Leverett Rd. that was recently closed by the state due to structural issues which is causing trucks to use Cave Hill/Montague Rd. instead. It was agreed that a letter sent to Rep. Kulik outlining the bridges interconnections and requesting that it be moved up on the priority list (it is the main road to from Rt. 63 to Shutesbury and Wendell and 2 state parks) may help. Margie will call or write. In the meantime Peter asked if at the minimum gravel could be added to the intersection to make the turning radius wider.

Next Rich discussed the water and well issues in the Teawaddle Hill Rd. area. Rich showed a map of the area and told the board that Chet Cramer owns land on the corner lot and recently dug a well with good water. Rich was thinking that if Chet is amenable 4 wells could be put in that area with a trench dug down Teawaddle Hill Rd. for the well lines. The wells would be owned by the individual home owners and the lines would be owned by the town. Rattlesnake Gutter Trust also owns land in the area and Rich would like to meet with them to discuss the possibility of putting the wells on that land.

**Business:**

The minutes of July 14 were approved as written.

**Motion: To appoint Judy Weinthalder to the hiring committee for the new highway employee. Vote: 3-0 in favor. Jen Roberts declined to be on the committee.**

**Motion: To approve that Jenny Daniel read the statement concerning the pipeline at tomorrow night's meeting as a representative of the Select Board. Vote: 3-0 in favor.**

Peter reported that the last of the conduit has been "pulled" for the fiber project and that about 25 homes are still without batteries because the homeowners have not been around to let the contractors in for the final phase. Letters have been sent to the homeowners.

Margie reported that the FRCOG would not give any assurances about how much the services of the accounting program may go up over the next three years which is the length of the contract they would like the town to sign. The board was not happy. They agreed to sign on to a three-year contract with the understanding that if the service went above 2% for next year that they are giving their one year notice now that they are not signing on again.

Peter signed a contract for diesel fuel.

FRTA letter was signed as drafted by Roy Kimmel concerning FRTAs proposed change to Rt. 23.

An MMA regional meeting will be held in Leverett on Oct. 9 from 8-10:00 am.

Julie reported that the Personnel Board is streamlining the payroll process with Dee Ann. Also, they are about to complete a rewrite of the 50 page employee policies. There may be a change in the procedure or timing of performance evaluations.

Peter shared a conversation he had with Will concerning personnel on the highway dept.

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 pm

Minutes taken by Lisa Stratford