

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
May 5, 2016
Slade Building**

Members present: Daniel Galante, Chair
Michael Stauder, Clerk
Jeffrey Williams

Staff present: Raeanne Siegel, Interim Town Administrator; Jeannette Elsevier, Executive Administrative Assistant;

Others present: Norman Brown, Carol Curtis, Andre Provencal, Susan Rayne, Bonnie Cunningham, Tara, John Nason, Ron Raston, Tom Robinson, Thomas Bratko

Open Session:

Flagg Rd. - Dan Galante read letter from Hubbardston Council on Aging regarding condition of Flagg Rd. and in support of Peaceful Acres Campground. Discussed options of grinding, paving, re-packing it, etc. Select Board is in process of deciding what road projects to undertake this year.

Warrant

Articles 19 and 20, Ms. Siegel pointed out changes to both.

Article 21, Jeff Williams expressed concern over DPW Director's letter of April 28th to reconsider putting the purchase of a new dump truck for the DPW back on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Mike Stauder stated that for the majority of the year, not all of the dump trucks are being used. He stated that all of the trucks are only in use during the winter. Dan Galante stated that although he understands the need, he feels that due to the current constraints, he is still in favor of keeping the dump truck off of the warrant for this year.

Article 22, all set.

Article 23, Ms. Siegel pointed out the amended amount of override.

Article 25, Double article, library submitted article has been removed.

Article 31, Waiting on title search results. If the results do not come back in time, this article may have to be removed.

Article 32, Waiting on wording from Town Counsel and a review

Motion: M. Stauder

2nd: J. Williams

To approve Town Meeting Warrant as presented

Vote: All in Favor

Budget

Projected local receipts that number is changed to reflect a \$39,000 placeholder for Barrago Solar. What needs to be decided is whether escalator or flat rate. All agree on escalator but holding off on percentage, pending to May 16th meeting.

Motion: M. Stauder

2nd: J. Williams

To approve Budget as presented

Vote: All in Favor

Town Administrator Report – See attached

Meeting on June 1st - Cancel meeting on June 1st so Dan and Mike may attend Candidate's Night since they are both up for re-election.

Country Hen Scholarship – The deadline has passed for the scholarship and we have only received two applications. Discussed whether to split the amount between the two applicants, or have a committee review applications and choose one recipient. Board agreed to extend deadline until the 15th and have committee start reviewing the applicants.

Request for letter to Mass DOT- DPW Director Tim Kilhart is requesting that the board approve a letter being sent on behalf of the Selectboard against Chapter 90 being level funded by DOT for the next 5 years. This would hurt future town projects. Board agreed, Ms. Siegel will draft a letter for board to review.

Charter Cable License Renewal Negotiations – Charter’s discussions with Time Warner to merge is stalling renewal process. Ms. Siegel is hoping to have more information for May 16th meeting.

Remote Participation – Will discuss on the 16th.

Dog Issue on Mt. Jeff – Will discuss on May 16th. All parties have been notified of discussion.

Auditing Firm – It is a good practice to change auditing firms every few years. Amount listed in the FY’17 budget is the one presented by Scanlon & Associates. It is recommended that the board look into changing the auditing firm for the following year. Ms. Siegel will look into other firms so board will have an idea on increase.

Appointments

Move to May 16th

Earth Removal By-Law Report

Thomas Bratko stated no active gravel operations licensed in town. Records are a mess, going to go through Planning Board file cabinets to organize and re-file everything. T. Bratko will email report.

Hubbardston Housing Plan

Final draft plan presented by Thomas Bratko. It has been about 10 years since last housing plan. Need two things for Master Plan: Current Affordable Housing Plan and current Open Space Plan. Jassy Bratko has Open Space Plan just about completed. About \$63,000 in dedicated funds for Affordable Housing in CPA account. 10% has to be used for housing, open space, historical and maybe another one. Balance is undesignated funds and can be used for any of the four of those. Dedicated funds have to be used only for Affordable Housing. What came out of committee is that we have to do something. The town is at maybe 1 or 2% and we are supposed to be 10%. There was a massive error in number of acres in town and who owns what. We actually have 9,000 acres, not only 1,000. Create a First Time Homebuyer’s plan to cover some of their costs. Another option is to give a grant to people in lower income to allow them to purchase a house, but in exchange for making the house an ‘affordable house’ on the deed.

**Respectfully submitted,
Tonya Martowska**