

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 02-10-2015

Present: 1st Selectman Galen Larrabee, 2nd Selectman Jeffrey Stevens, 3rd Selectman William Ingraham, and Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Dorrit Emerson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20PM.

The minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting were accepted as corrected by a vote of 3-0. (The snow date was changed from February to January)

The Selectmen granted an abatement to account 317 for the years 2013 and 2014. The dwelling had been over assessed.

The Selectmen signed an authorization for the treasurer to add the following groups to payroll. Ballot Clerks, General Assistance Officer, Code enforcement Officer, Fire Chief, Emergency Management Director and all other persons who do not qualify as independent contractors.

The Selectmen discussed the issue of variance fees not being received. The cost to file a variance is \$19.00 and had not been collected for the Town by the Appeals Board. The Treasurer will attend any appeals Board meetings where there could be a variance granted. By doing so, she would be able to collect those fees for the Town and also be there to notarize the variance form as required by law.

A land boundary issue was discussed by the Selectmen. Galen will call the taxpayer who brought this to the Board's attention and discuss the issue.

Mark Chadwick submitted a revised copy of the changes to the building code that the Planning Board would like to implement. The Selectmen reviewed the changes and decided to table the proposed ordinance changes for further investigation. They would also like the Chairman of the Planning board to explain his plan to the Selectmen and also to the townspeople at the Public Hearing on February 23, 2015.

The Cemetery Committee submitted their report for the Town Report, but reported that there were 2 errors and would submit a corrected version.

Cemetery lot prices were discussed. Galen would like clarification on single lot prices. Jeffrey asked who set the prices. Galen suggested that the Selectmen meet with the Cemetery Committee to discuss this. It was mentioned that Freedom takes a portion of the lot price to put towards perpetual care. The Selectmen will wait until their meeting with the Cemetery Committee to see if lot rates should be set by adopting a policy or if it should be voted on at Town Meeting.

The Selectmen will start meeting on a weekly basis to set the budget for the new fiscal year. They will meet on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

Galen mentioned that the Town should purchase an electronic sign for the office. He thinks that the Town might be able to afford it this year and that it could also be used to let people know when a citizen has passed away. Willie suggested the Town check online for prices.

The Public hearing for the FEMA Flood Plain and Planning Board changes has been scheduled for February 23, 2015

Galen met with the Brooks Selectmen and we now have signed Fire Protection contracts with Brooks, Freedom and Thorndike.

Galen talked with our electrician, Ryan Herz, and he will start working on the Hearse House issues on Thursday, February 12. He will work on the electrical box on the light pole after that and will then proceed to finish the electrical repairs at the sand shed.

Dorrit gave the Board the latest update on the 2012 unpaid taxes. Foreclosure date is set for February 8, 2015. There are nine properties that have gone to foreclosure.

The Moderator for this year's Town Meeting will be Michael Thibodeau. The dedication page has been decided and it will be written by a family member.

The Town Office door will be replaced before Town Meeting. Willie will talk to Ron Vals and see if he will be available to do the work.

Dorrit told the Board that she would be out of the office for two days during the first week of March.

Judy Gallant should have the web site done this week. We hope to have it up and running before Town Meeting.

The Selectmen decided not to nominate anyone for this year's Spirit of America Award.

The Solid Waste Report is coming due. Galen will call Mr. Louder and talk to him. The form will be filled out and submitted.

The Maine Legislature has a new program called "Keep ME warm". The selectmen read the information that was sent about this program.

Maine DOT will be having their annual meeting at the Union Town Office on April 29, 2015 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. There will also be a LRAP program meeting in March. Galen would like to register and he will check his calendar. Also included in the email from Maine DOT was information about orange "Road Posted "X" Miles Ahead" signs. The State will issue a maximum of 4 at no charge. Galen suggested that we email the State to get our 4.

Maine Government Finance Officers Association is having a workshop on February 26, 2015. No one from our office will be attending.

MRC sent a copy of their newsletter. The newsletter included information about MRC working with a Maryland based company, Fibright. The two companies will be working together to produce industrial sugars and biofuel from municipal solid waste.

Maine Resource Recovery association has a vacancy on their board of directors. The selectmen expressed no interest in serving on this board. The email was made to the attention of "Susan". The Selectmen asked that MRRA be notified that there has been a change of staff in the office.

The office received a schedule for the public hearings for the Governor's proposed budget. They are February 17, 18, 19 and 23.

Senator Michael Thibodeau sent a request for information about outdated State mandates. He also sent an email with information about scheduled road work. The Town has already received information about this.

From the Waldo County commissioners, the Town received their agenda for their meeting on February 12, 2015, the minutes from their meeting on December 17, 2014, and a copy of their proposed budget for 2015. The Selectmen reviewed these documents.

RSU#3 sent a copy of their agenda for their meeting on February 9, 2015

The State will be holding a Freedom of Access class on March 24, 2015. All three Selectmen will be attending.

The Treasurer's Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM by a vote of 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorrit Emerson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Dorrit Emerson, Deputy Town Clerk