

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 20, 2016

Present: Melinda Gervais-Lamoureux, Doug Niles, James Cross, Steve Allison, Mark Castonguay, Jerry Blake, Alan Ashman, Bill Hawkins, Ray Fontaine, and Ed Barber from Newport Daily Express.

Chairperson Melinda Gervais-Lamoureux called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Update Agenda: No updates to the agenda at this meeting.

Public comment: Steve Allison asked about the ability of the town on clearing out saplings along Gideon's Mill Road. Mark said that he could possibly have the area brush hogged next spring/summer. Mark will stay in contact with Mr. Allison on the issue.

Read and approve minutes: No minutes were presented to the board at this meeting and will be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Buildings and maintenance: Melinda asked Mark if he could make the town garage available for Faith In Action to hold its food drop in February. Mark said he would be able to do so.

Melinda explained to Ray and Billy about their reporting to Joel from now on.

Ray asked about sidewalk cleaning during snowstorms. Ray expressed concern over Joel's frustration with him cleaning the sidewalks instead of the building. Ray told the board that his normal schedule was 6:00 to 3:00.

Ray and Billy reported on gym use and conditions. Everyone seems to be doing a good job of cleaning up the gym after use. Billy informed the board that WIC would like to use the gym in February.

The fire department ran out of fuel in December. The board will look into why we did not have auto delivery here.

Roads: Mark asked about the plowing of the Hancock Road. Mark stated that Brett Hedges already plows the rest of the road. Doug Niles made a motion to have Brett Hedges pick up the plowing of the rest of the road in order to save time and expense of the road crew plowing the 100 yards of road. Jim Cross seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Mark reported that he spoke to Jason Lefebvre about the cost of doing dirt work for sidewalk projects down town. No decision has been made yet.

Alan expressed concern over Donald Steiner's road/driveway which is listed as a class 3 road. The owner has put up metal posts that are so close together that the plow barely fits through without the wing on board. The board stated that they will contact Mr. Steiner about removing the posts. The board will also set an agenda item to discuss future snow removal from roads that are dead ends with just one owner on them.

Personnel: Melinda explained to Alan, Jerry and Ray why they were not getting the 4% raise that all the other town employees will be receiving if the budget passes for 2016. These employees received a raise mid-year when a new road crew member was hired. The crew understood.

The board approved employee timesheets.

Melinda informed Mark, Ray and Billy that the town would pay for 50% of their cell phone bill, as they use them for work related situations.

Appoint Planning Commissioner: Doug Niles made a motion to appoint Scott Gowdy as planning commission member. James Cross seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

DAV request: The Disabled American Veterans asked to hold a coin drop. Doug Niles made a motion to allow the DAV to hold this event. James Cross seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Budget report: The board discussed adding a line item in the budget for a generator for the fire station. Doug Niles expressed interest in looking into the used generator in Willmington.

Melinda stated that Jeff Noyes may look to have 25% of his cell phone bill paid.

The board agreed to meet on January 27, 2016 at 9:00 AM to finalize the budget.

Other business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.