

December 17, 2013

Approved Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Present: Selectmen: C. Moser, B. O'Grady, Garth Fletcher and Pat LeTourneau & residents Mark McDonald, Mary McDonald, Carole Iodice and Martha Ward

Agenda:

Meeting opened at 7:55 PM.

Selectmen Minutes of December 10 reviewed, motioned, seconded and approved with minor spelling changes. .

The check manifest was reviewed and approved. Checks were signed by Pat Letourneau

Appointments:

8:00PM

Carole Iodice – Newly elected president of the Historical Committee and is planning an event in February about Old Mason. Carole wanted to know if insurance is necessary for the Historical society using the Town Hall for the event. Charles Moser said because the traditional function of Town Hall being of a historical nature that he moved to waiver the insurance rider and Bernard O' Grady seconded. The event will tentatively be on February 27, 2014.

Mark and Mary McDonald

8:15PM

The Selectmen had requested that Mary and Mark McDonald meet with them concerning the written complaint about the shed that was erected in their front yard on Old Ashby Road. The complaint was filed by Marla Berry, their neighbor.

Mary and Mark said that there is animosity between them and their neighbor, even though the McDonalds felt they are always cordial. They did not think they needed a permit because it was not on a concrete pad, it is 6x12 and self standing. Their goal was to get their firewood out of the elements, neaten the area in front and remove the tarp covering the wood pile as it was an eyesore. Mark stated that Eric Anderson, Town of Mason building inspector did stop by and he told Eric he was trying to make the area look neater. Mary and Mark said they have no room on their lot that is convenient for a wood shed and are hampered by Historic District restrictions and the irregularity of their lot.

Selectmen Moser stated there are two issues – 1st -- Historic Commission has to have a design presented and 2ndly - the Board of Adjustment needs to be consulted as the shed does not have the proper set back. Both departments need to be consulted and applications submitted .

Mary stated that where the shed is erected is the only available spot for a shed.

Selectmen O'Grady said that many people in town have to build in areas that are not convenient for them. He thought with the shed being 6x12 there must be other places she could build and had other areas been explored by her..

Mary said there are other violations in town and from what she can determine many are not addressed.

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Selectman O'Grady said if there isn't a complaint filed with the Selectmen that there is no action they can take and in the McDonald's situation there is a complaint and the Board has to act on it. He also stated that if the Board does not act on this complaint that others in the area will see that placement of the shed and that will set a precedent. Mary McDonald asked if it would be possible to have a joint hearing with Historical and Board of Adjustment and also if the notice to abutters could be sent in the same envelope. Both Selectmen thought that would be acceptable but Patricia LeTourneau from the Board of Adjustments was present and told Mary that she knew the procedure for setting up an appointment with the Board and that is what she needs to do. Patricia LeTourneau did not think it was possible to coordinate the two hearings and could not accommodate the McDonalds.

The resolution was that the McDonalds agreed to set up appointments with the Board of Adjustment and the Historical Commission to review the site of the shed and see what is required of them.

Old Business

1-Credit Card status- completed applications filed with People's Bank- awaiting their clearance and issuance of credit cards.

2-Letter to TD Bank—Selectmen Moser in process of writing letter to the bank requesting listing of accounts and signatories.

3- Patricia Letourneau discussed the letter from the auditors. She is concerned about segregations of duties. Selectmen told Patricia that was discussed in the meeting on December 10. She was not present at that meeting but Garth Fletcher was. Patricia Letourneau is concerned about transfer of duties from her to the Selectmen's assistant. Selectmen Moser and Patricia Letourneau discussed meeting and reviewing internal control policy. Patricia Letourneau said she had not seen the auditor's letter but it was given to her in the November 26 meeting.

4- Review of meeting due date of TAN which is 12/31/2013 and monies that will be available. Incoming tax revenues is being monitored by the Selectman's office and it will be reviewed on 12/24 and decision will be made on that date as to what amount will be paid against the note.

5- Selectmen Moser discussed Chief Hutchins Town Lockdown presentation at the annual town employees gathering in December. Selectmen Moser said it was a good presentation and good comments from the employees. Chief Hutchins suggested policies that could be instituted and further discussions with Chief Hutchins are required.

Public Session Adjourned 9:22PM

Entered into nonpublic session—Motioned and seconded on 9:22PM