

Town of Mason 1/28/2014 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Chairman Moser called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Board tabled the minutes and approved both the payroll and accounts payable manifests. Charlie moved to enter non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Bernie seconded, and the motion carried.

The Board returned from non-public and discussed a use policy for the quarry. Charlie suggested the Board notice a public hearing. Charlie asked if Con Com wanted a policy or an ordinance. The consensus agreed it should be an ordinance so there could be enforcement. Martha Jacques had reviewed it. A suggestion was to reference an ordinance on the signs. An ordinance can be adopted by the governing body. Charlie wants to run it by Town Counsel to make sure it's okay. Martha specifically said not to attach fines to it. There is a town ordinance they know of that would apply -- no ATVs on conservation land and no fires without a permit. The insurance company recommended putting a sign at all of the entrances. A question was raised whether the current signs say "no ATVs"? Pat suggested not excluding snowmobiles, but rather, stick with "motorized wheeled vehicles". Charlie said the current ordinance excepts snowmobiles on all town land. Barbara said a new federal law OPMD might mean a change. Charlie said it's for people with disabilities. It's a complicated law that talks about "other powered mobility devices". Charlie suggested they keep working on it. Bob Dilburger has done some research on it. Charlie offered to take a look at it. Charlie noted there was an ordinance that prohibits parking on Scripps Lane. That one would need modifying. Putting a parking lot on their land would be costly. The ordinance went into effect before it was upgraded. It was probably put on to keep the parties out of the quarry. Charlie added they have open container, littering, unauthorized camping and campfires. There is a lot of overlap. They'll work to conform and cross-reference. They want to limit hours. If a group wanted to camp, they would have to plan ahead and get approval. Charlie proposed sending it back to the Con Com before scheduling a hearing. Barbara Devore asked who would pay Dresser's bill. Charlie thinks it's the Selectmen's dime. They have had two gates made and would like direction on how and where to install them. They can gate the railroad, but not Scripps Lane. Fred should have input. This has to be on the agenda for discussion. Barry said the ordinance will make their job easier and aid enforcement. The Con Com meets February 12.

Application for Veteran's Tax Credit for Walter Alford, 1479 Starch Mill Road. The Board reviewed the application and the recommendation from Granite Hill Assessors. The Board approved the application and signed it. Carlotta will put the letter to Mr. Alford on Town letterhead and get signatures later.

Application for Current Use, Bruce Merrill - the Board approved it and signed the application.

Catherine Schwenk wanted to add the acceptance of reports to the Town Warrant. She also wants to appoint a Republican ballot clerk, Dee Mitchell, for a 3-year term. She will work in the morning. She balances the books, and will continue to do that. The Board agreed to prepare an appointment form in duplicate--one for Town Clerk and one for her. Make sure Town Report reflects it accordingly.

Timber Tax bond-Carlotta explained that Mr. Anderson owes back taxes to the Town and is prepared to

post a bond for his timber operation. She used the estimate provided by the forester to come up with the amount for the bond. There was also a discussion of a road bond. The Board agreed with the methodology employed and agreed to consult with the Road Agent.

Fraud Policy - Charlie drafted one based on a model policy from LGC. Charlie proposed adding as section 5 of the Personnel Policy. Bernie reviewed the draft. The board agreed to adopt it. Charlie so moved. Bernie seconded, and all voted in favor.

Carlotta said the Town got a letter regarding \$9,000 coming from the Health Trust for surplus. The Board agreed to take the check and not the contribution holiday. No action required.

Old Business

Approve 2013 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate-Board wants to review materials that were submitted before and any minutes on the matter.

Ambulance Service Contract-It was a \$4 increase, which has been adjusted in budget and warrant. Board will sign contract.

Draft Response to Auditor's Questionnaire. Carlotta drafted a response. Board reviewed and handed it off to Treasurer. She reviewed and had no objections. Charlie signed.

Report of TA

The Board agreed to invite Todd Haywood to an upcoming meeting.

A letter from the NH Society for the Protection of Forest was reviewed. It pertained to the Coyne Sanctuary on right hand side when you're going down. They want to know if the Town is aware of any solid or hazardous waste. Charlie suggested that perhaps the Con Com could give the Selectmen a report, because the Selectmen are supposed to sign off on it. It abuts just a little bit on Scripts Lane against the quarry lot. Barbara Devore said they would talk about it.

Carlotta reviewed the Informational Items/Communication.

Pat has to delegate payroll and bookkeeping to Carlotta. Charlie announced that Martha Ward has resigned, effective at the end of this week. Pat will rescind the other delegation of treasurer's authority Pat will be here Thursday to go over the town report.

Barbara said the copy machine upstairs doesn't work. It hasn't work since before Old Home Day. Town Meeting is coming and voting. They want to use the machine. The supervisors of the Checklist are going to need it. Pat said it should be thrown out, not serviced. Barbara asked if there is a maintenance contract. Charlie is pretty sure it's owned. Pat volunteered the ZBA line items that haven't been used. The Police have Martha's copier. They allow her to use sitting space. Charlie is not against having a 2nd copier. ZBA and Con Com already pay for it.

Chief Hutchins came in.

Charlie moved adjourn. Bernie seconded, and all voted in favor.

Minutes approved 3/25/2014