

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 26, 2015
6:30pm Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

Present: Rick Ives, Bob Kelleher, Joe Voccio and Melissa Bradley; Recording Secretary

Also Present: Tom Rukstela, Aaron Kerouack, Marion Kervin, Theresa Lazure, WINY radio and Fran from the Bulletin

- 1. Call to Order:** Mr. Ives called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- 2. Approve Previous Minutes:** Bob Kelleher made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 1/29/15 and 2/7/15 as presented. Joe Voccio seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
- 3. Public Comment**
 - Marion Kervin is pleased with the snow plowing this year. She questions the sand to salt ratio. Mr. Ives replies it is 3 to 1 sand to salt. An article in the Bulletin regarding excess funds in amount of \$700,000 was bothersome. Mr. Ives explains approximately \$400,000 is money borrowed that was not used and must be used to pay down debt. The remainder was money the Board of Finance earmarked to pay down debt. They can decide to fund it elsewhere if they choose. Ms. Kervin suggests using the funds towards the school alarm system.
 - Ms. Kervin questions a resolution passed at the last meeting. Mr. Ives explains it was to apply for a grant to upgrade our accounting system. We have not accepted the grant yet, its pending approval and that will decide if we proceed.
 - Ms. Kervin requests an update on the sidewalks to Wal Mart. Mr. Ives is pleased to say we were awarded grant money and we are awaiting nice weather at this point to proceed.
 - Theresa Lazure requests adjustment or replacement of the signal light on Route 6 at Allen Hill. When you are traveling west and want to take a left turn, there is no left arrow and you can sit through several lights before turning. Mr. Ives believes it is affected because all the lights in the strip to Wal Mart tie into the same system.
 - Aaron Kerouack – Mr. Kerouack questions the \$56,000 that was appropriated for the alarm system and why it is no longer in the budget. Mr. Ives clarifies some of the funds were used for a scope and the remaining funds are earmarked for this project.
- 4. Discussion on 2014-15 Winter Costs – Budget:** Mr. Ives reports the highway department has felt the burden of this difficult weather. The payload motor had to be replaced, several truck and equipment repairs and also unanticipated snow removal. FEMA has designated Windham county eligible for relief based on our busiest 48 hours, which would be during the blizzard. Mr. Ives will be working to get these figures to FEMA as soon as possible.

5. **Discussion on 2015-16 Budget Discussion:** Not all budgets have been received, including the fire departments. State building grant money will not be received any more, but this will wash out because there are no expenses. The Resident Trooper program may be cut which would mean the Town would pay 100% for the program. Tax collection is up 100% and the grand list has gone up slightly.
6. **Discussion on Recycling Bins:** Casella provided 3200 totes when they were hired and an additional 350 more. We have exceeded these numbers and the totes are a \$60 cost for the Town to buy. Mr. Ives does not have an issue giving a tote to a new resident or if one was damaged by a snow plow. He would like to come up with a plan for other residents who wish to have a second one. Recycling is encouraged and ask the Selectmen to think of ideas how to lower the cost for the Town but be fair to residents and will be discussed at the next meeting.
7. **Discussion on Peddlers Ordinance:** Mr. Kelleher has changed some wording on the ordinance but has not sent the changes to the Selectmen yet. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
8. **Discussion on Elections Special Act:** Nothing has been received from the Town Attorney at this time.
9. **Discussion on STEAP Grant:** Mr. Ives discusses using the grant funds for two generators, at the senior center and Town garage. In case of an emergency or disaster, the garage will need to function and the senior center is used as a shelter. Mr. Voccio states the housing authority will not be ready to advance and will miss funding in this round. Mr. Voccio reiterates he feels the old Restaurant on South Main Street should be considered by the housing authority, the location is ideal.
10. **Liaison Report:** Mr. Voccio reports there was not a Board of Education meeting last night.
11. **Other Business:** The fire at the building on Tiffany Street has left several apartments damaged and the third floor. We should know in the next thirty days if it is feasible to rebuild.
12. **Approve Bills:** Joe Voccio made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$156,701.11. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. The Selectmen agree they want the bills paid twice a month. Mr. Ives will speak to Sherri regarding this. Motion passed 3-0.
13. **Public Comment**
 - Theresa Lazure states she would pay for a second recycling bin at a decent price. Casella has also taken the small plastic bin when put on top of the full tote.
 - Aaron Kerouack suggests having a certain time the bins can be curbside to try and prevent damage.
 - Marion Kervin questions if residents could pay to have the sidewalk in front of their property cleared to cut costs on the Town. Mr. Ives states the Town does this as a courtesy but regardless of who pays for it, ultimately the Town is liable. There is a State Statute in place that makes it difficult for us not to keep them clear.
 - Ms. Kervin inquiries if the departments were asked to lower their budgets this year if the funds were not all spent this last year. Mr. Ives has asked the departments to explain why the amount they requested and why it was not spent last and why it would be this year.
 - Ms. Kervin would like to know where our reserve is and what is considered a “good” reserve. Mr. Ives answers it is between 10-12% and we are right around 10%.
 - Ms. Kervin inquires when the next revaluation will be done. Mr. Ives states it is the process now and bills will be out in November.
14. **Adjourn:** Joe Voccio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted;

Melissa J. Bradley
Recording Secretary