

Minutes of May 14, 2012

The Meeting was opened at 7:15 PM. All members were present.

The meeting minutes of May 7th were accepted as prepared.

The Board reviewed and discussed three bids received for the Canaan Southfield Road Reclamation & Paving Project: Williams Paving \$410,119.00, Lane Construction \$450,529.48 and LB Corp \$410,322.70. The Highway Superintendent advised that he had reviewed the bids and recommends that the Board accept the bid from Williams Paving. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the bid from Williams Paving. It was noted that at this time the State has a hold on Chapter 90 monies.

The Board was updated on the meeting last Friday with MassDot. Selectman Yohalem advised that the State is continuing inspections of bridges in New Marlborough and has indicated the possibility of closing the following bridges: Keyes Hill Road, Lumbert Cross Road, Campbell Falls Road. At this time two bridges will be one lane such as Norfolk Road and Canaan Southfield by Tchir's Junkyard. Peter Marks, Highway Superintendent, advised the Board that there is an issue with the culvert on Clayton Mill River Road. The Board reviewed and discussed funding of the repairs and advised that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with the Town Treasurer, Finance Committee, and a Bond Advisor to discuss various funding methods.

Selectman Yohalem advised the Board that he had a conversation with Mr. Brad Wagstaff regarding real estate taxes owed to the Town. Mr. Wagstaff advised Selectman Yohalem that he has a signed purchase and sales agreement for Mepal Manor and the closing is at the end of the month. Mr. Wagstaff advised that all taxes would then be paid for Mepal Manor. Selectman Yohalem inquired as to the taxes owed for Gedney Farm and Mr. Wagstaff didn't seem to have an answer as to when the taxes would be paid. He stated that he would have to make arrangements. The Board would like a letter from the buyer's attorney to verify the purchase and sales agreement and closing date for Mepal Manor. The Board would also like a letter to be sent to Mr. Wagstaff to come before the Board to discuss the alcohol beverage licenses for Mepal Manor and Gedney Farm.

Scott Farrell, Police Chief, appeared before the Board stating his concerns regarding the Town's Animal Control Officer. Chief Farrell advised the Board that the Police Department has called Mr. Springstube a number of times and is not receiving responses. Chief Farrell suggests that the Board think of hiring a new Animal Control Officer and recommends the Animal Control Officer of Sandisfield.

The Board reviewed and discussed the status of the old police cruiser. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to declare the old police cruiser surplus property.

The Board reviewed and discussed possible warrant articles for a Special Town Meeting. Currently there are four articles.

Article 1: to transfer the balance of funds from Winter Roads Account to Storm Irene Account to defray the Town's share of expenses for Storm Irene.

Article 2: to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$33,100.00 and appropriate it to Storm Irene Account to defray the Town's share of Storm Irene expenses.

Article 3: to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,204.00 to pay the FY2013 loan payment for Town Hall Renovations.

Article 4: to transfer from the Free Cash the sum of \$20,000.00 and appropriate it to Town Hall Renovations Account to continue the renovation work in the Town Hall.

Selectman Yohalem would like to place a warrant article to change some elected positions to appointed positions. It was noted that such articles should be on the Annual Warrant since any such action would require an election question to follow. The Board will consider next week as to whether it should change the date of the Special Town Meeting from June 11th to June 18th.

It was noted that no bids were received for the exterior painting of the Town Hall. The Board reviewed and discussed the possibility of installing vinyl siding instead of painting the Town Hall. The Board will review the matter further.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Skorput
Administrative Assistant