



Office of Board of Selectmen Town of Mason

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Selectmen Meeting 12/22/2020
Approved Minutes

Present: By roll call, using the Zoom platform – Charles Moser, Louise Lavoie, Pete McGinnity, selectmen; Kathy Wile, AA; Brenda Wiley, bookkeeper; Debra Morrison, TC; joined by CC members Bob Dillberger and Liz & Garth Fletcher.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order 7:30 PM by Chair Louise Lavoie, attendance was taken by roll call as reflected above.

Approvals:

- Noted that the accounts payable and payroll manifests had been reviewed and approved by all selectmen prior to the meeting.
- Minutes of Nov 30, 2020 HD staff meeting had been reviewed. Pete noted there should be a modification in paragraph 4; the words “not (inclusive) of necessary items” will be inserted following “...yet it seemed to be...”. Pete motioned to approve the minutes as amended, second from Charlie. Roll call vote – Louise-aye, Pete-aye, Charlie-aye to approve minutes of 11/30/2020 HD staff meeting as amended.
- Minutes of Dec 8, 2020 general meeting had been reviewed by selectmen. Pete motioned to approve as written, second from Charlie. Roll call vote to approve minutes of 12/8/2020 as written was Louise-aye, Pete-aye, Charlie-aye.
- Minutes of Dec 15, 2020 staff meeting had been reviewed by selectmen. Pete requested to include “PD” in the title of the minutes, for consistency. Pete then motioned, second from Charlie, to approve the minutes with the name change. Roll call vote to approve minutes of 12/15/2020 as amended was Louise-aye, Pete-aye, Charlie-aye.
- Minutes of Dec 15, 2020 buildings staff meeting had been reviewed by selectmen. Pete motioned to approve as written, second from Louise. Roll call vote to approve minutes of buildings staff meeting of 12/15/2020 as written was Louise-aye, Pete-aye, Charlie-aye.
- Minutes of Dec 15, 2020 budget planning meeting had been reviewed by selectmen. Pete motioned to approve as written, second from Charlie. Roll call vote to approve minutes of 12/8/2020 as written was Louise-aye, Pete-aye, Charlie-aye.
- Noted that the contract with Earthworks for repairs to Russell Rd, previously approved, had been signed by Louise on behalf of the Board.
- Also noted that 3 warrants for timber tax had been prepared by the assessor and signed by selectmen.

New Business:

- Town Clerk Deb Morrison was attending to discuss locations for both Town elections and Town Meeting. She said the principal had offered use of the school for both events, and needed to know for planning purposes if the town would like to use the building especially for the election. Discussion concluded with the decision to hold the town election at the school on March 9, and tentatively the town meeting, pending guidance by the Secretary of State's office to election officials. Deb will confirm with Kristen at the school tomorrow. Further discussion revealed that the moderator has requested doubling the stipends for both moderator and Assistant moderator for next year's budget. Decision to look at that, but no decision will be made yet. Deb left the meeting.
- Next on the agenda – Conservation commission. Bob Dillberger was on the call until Liz Fletcher could join; decision to wait until Liz joined to better explain the question at hand.
- Planning Board and the CIP plan to be developed was next on the agenda, specifically the interaction of BOS and PB in the process, how to work together to best join vision and reality into the plan. BOS is supportive of working together and getting the plan developed over the course of 2021. Charlie will convey the message to Chair Dane Rota, and invite him to a BOS meeting on either Jan 12th or 26th for some discussion on the subject.
- Liz Fletcher joined the meeting to continue the conversation regarding CC. Liz reviewed that CC had obtained a lot line definition for the boundary between H-37 and 38, with poles put in place. This is a sketch survey, not a complete survey that could be filed at HCRD. It would be an extra \$850 to get the other 3 sides surveyed and obtained a complete survey of the property – should they do that? Noted that the other 2 corners have granite markers. Selectmen agreed that isn't necessary to get the survey completed, but keep the sketch survey filed with the property information. Liz and Bob thanked BOS for saving them the money; they left the meeting at this point.

Old Business:

- Wilton Recycling Center Budget projected to be up about 6.94% for Mason for 2021. Noted that there had been a substantial increase in 2020 as well – is this trend likely to continue? Understood that the center was behind in infrastructure improvements. This cost is based on population, not total users from each town. Discussion regarding initiating the conversation about doing a survey within town to see how many people use WRC, and see if contracting with a private company might be more cost effective. Perhaps a discussion for town meeting. Charlie will bring Mason's concerns to the next WRC meeting in January.
- Right Angle Engineering had sent an invoice with currently due charges as well as anticipated charges for completing the Russell Rd project in 2021. Brenda reminded selectmen that funds from warrant articles cannot be re-purposed or encumbered – they go back to the general fund balance to be used to reduce the tax rate for the following year. Pete motioned to pay the entire invoice, second from Charlie. Roll call vote to pay the entire invoice Louise-aye, Pete-aye, Charlie-aye. Discussed and agreed to have a special manifest next week to cover this check as well as other last minute items needing a 2020 check date.
- Other budget related discussion – remaining funds in the Paved Road Restoration line 4311-13 are at \$72,268. Discussion to encumber funds to cover the Earthworks contract for repairs, and apply the balance of \$13,807.70 to the Jed's Lane bridge repairs. Dave will need to get a contract in place with the contractor for approval next week.

Louise motioned, second from Charlie, to encumber \$58,461 for the Earthworks contract for 2021. Roll call vote Louise-aye, Pete-aye, Charlie-aye, to encumber that amount for the contract.

- Pete noted that line 4312-17, HD vehicle lease, should be reduced from \$40,000 to \$38,000.
- Budget hearing date was set for Jan 21, 2021 at 7:30 PM via zoom. Noted that many people will have enhanced internet by that date! The proposed budget will be posted on the website, on town bulletin boards, and emailed or paper copies given to people on request. Noted the posted copy will be a watermarked PDF.

Informational Items/Communication:

- Some census related group had emailed requesting the town advertise for their hiring needs on the town website. This request was denied.
- Wally had a quote for replacement windows for the schoolhouse. Pete motioned, second from Charlie to encumber \$7,055.44 from line 4194-02 to purchase the windows when available in 2021. Roll call vote to encumber the funds Louise-aye, Pete-aye, Charlie-aye. Request approved.
- Pete noted he had just changed his electric supplier contract for 2021 – should the town do that also? Noted the town (and school) are part of the NRPC electricity aggregate, which negotiates for best available rates on behalf of many municipalities. One year left on that contract.

Public Forum: No members of the public were still at the meeting.

Non-Public:

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Louise motioned to adjourn, second from Pete. Louise-aye, Pete-aye, Charlie-aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM, zoom meeting forum closed by Louise.

Next regular meeting will be Tuesday January 12, 2021 via the Zoom platform, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Wile
Administrative Assistant