

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2011

PRESENT: Ted Poirier, Scott Littlefield, Mike Polakewich, Angela Cushman, Jim Roberts, Yvonne Shaw, Janice Saunders

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Plourde

Selectmen Ted Poirier declared the meeting open at 18:00.
Agenda approved by Selectmen.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No actions required at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

APPOINTMENTS:

OLD BUSINEES:

1. Anderson Rd bid easements/liquidated damages. The town attorney has drafted easements for the two residents that would need to sign off in order to add a turnaround at the end of Anderson Rd. Angela Cushman to schedule the two residents to attend a future meeting. At the Pre-Bid meeting a question was raised whether the contract would contain a liquidated damages clause (penalties would be imposed for a job not being completed within the timeframe). Selectmen discussed and decided that the contract would not contain this clause.
2. Dennett Town Property. Brian Plourde asked the Selectmen about the possibility of using the Dennett Town Property for business use. The land was donated to the Town by Barbara Dennett for open use purposes. The Selectmen communicated that residents can use the property for recreational purposes only.
3. Dump Permit issue. A resident complained that even though he had a dump permit from the Town the attendant would not allow him to use it and charged him for disposing of material. After further conversations with the resident, BBI has agreed to reimburse the resident the amount charged to dispose of material.
4. Audit Services. No update at this time.
5. Office hours/holidays. The Selectmen and staff agreed to conduct a survey of residents to see if the current days are meeting the needs of the residents.
6. RSU23 – Meetings with TA & new superintendent. Selectmen tentatively scheduled July 12th to meet with Thornton Academy and July 18th to meet with the new superintendent. Upcoming Selectmen meetings will be as follows: June 27th – open Anderson Rd bids, June 29th – workshop to review bids, July 5th –

award the bid & sign warrants and July 18th - regular Selectmen meeting. The Selectmen discussed forming an Education Committee to determine next steps.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Public Hearing – Cable TV. Ted Poirier opened the Public Hearing. The Board of Selectmen is in the process of negotiating a renewal of the Town's cable television franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable. The purpose of this public hearing is to ascertain the community's cable television needs and interests and to gauge its level of customer satisfaction. While the Town has limited authority under federal law to regulate the cost of cable services or the programming that is offered, it can negotiate such issues as: line extension policies (which means, how many homes must exist per mile before the cable operator is required to extend services to the area); line drop policies (which means, the distance between the feeder cable and the end user after which an installation become non-standard and require the customer to cover the cost); PEG (or public, education, government) channel access, facilities and equipment; franchise fees (which means, up to 5% of Time Warner's gross revenues from cable services that may be assessed by the Town; Time Warner can pass that cost through to subscribers); system upgrades; length of the contract (maximum of 15 years); service improvements; and signal improvements. We encourage you to share your thoughts with us tonight. You can also email the office with additional comments; please encourage others in the community to do the same. Ted Poirier read an email from a resident stating "Please let whoever know that the town needs to be able to access cable/high-speed uniformly. As a land owner who lives a good distance from the road, I should not have to pay to have the cable company run lines on telephone poles that come to my house. The poles are there & the cable should be run automatically if I wanted to purchase cable. Instead, they want to charge me to run the cable from the main road to my house. Thus I have DIRECTV & am very happy with it".

Mike Polakewich then reviewed the key points of the cable TV renewal. Currently, Time Warner will extend a line when there are 20 homes/mile. Twenty homes/mile does not work for rural communities, so the discussion at the joint meetings has been 10 homes/mile. Time Warner will drop a line up to 150 ft. with no charge. The group is working towards 250 ft. As part of the franchise fees towns can currently assess a subscriber fee to the resident up to 5%. These fees could be used to purchase equipment if a town would like the ability to televise. The cost to purchase equipment would range \$30,000 to \$35,000. The group is leaning towards not charging a subscriber fee and having Time Warner put aside an amount for equipment each year. The incentive for Time Warner would to eliminate the monthly accounting of the fees and paying a check to communities. The group involved in the renewal is working towards finalizing the contract in October. Mike Polakewich made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Ted Poirier communicated that the Selectmen will share the public's comments with Time Warner and will have another public hearing when they get to the point of reviewing and approving the actual franchise agreement.

PUBLIC FORUM:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Eleven Town Committee re: memo about meeting to discuss LD1476. Mike Polakewich communicated that LD1476 (an act to streamline the county budget process) did not pass.

Dennett Town Property deed indicating land was donated for open use by Dayton residents.

SIGNED:

1. 06/20/11 A/P Warrant
2. 06/20/11 P/Y Warrant
3. Training request

OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Scott Littlefield made a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A subsection 405(6)(A) to discuss a personnel issue at 19:32.

Mike Polakewich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:10.

*Minutes may not be verbatim they may have been paraphrased for clarity.

_____ Ted Poirier, Chair

_____ Mike Polakewich

_____ Scott Littlefield

amc