

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JULY 18, 2017

Chairman Hevy called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's office at 4 PM with Mr. Kiley and Mr. Petraitis also present.

Highway Superintendent Jason Benoit joined the meeting to explain his plan for road paving to be done this summer. He suggested that Cider Mill Road, Tucker Cross Road, Old West Brookfield Road, Smith Hanson Road and part of Tucker Road should be done. However, because we have applied for a grant to rebuild the bridge on Cider Mill, maybe Slab City and Town Farm Road should be done instead of Cider Mill. The total is around 3 miles of road, which should use approximately 1,000' of pipe and 10 catch basins. With the reclaim and binder-coat paving he estimates the job will cost around \$450,000.00. The roads would not be top-coated until the next year. Mr. Benoit will put together a Chapter 90 project request for the Board to review.

Superintendent Benoit presented the FY18 gasoline and salt bids, which the Selectmen will review at next week's meeting.

The Board reviewed a FY17 request to transfer \$419.64 from the Highway gasoline and diesel expense to the Highway Line Painting expense. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve and sign the transfer. So voted.

Mr. Benoit left the meeting at 4:30 PM.

The Board reviewed a request for resources form from the Friends of the Playground for an event on August 19th from noon to 11 PM on the Town Common. The police, fire and EMS have all signed off on the event. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the event. So voted.

At 4:55 PM Fire Chief Brad Gannon joined the meeting. Mr. Hevy explained that the Selectmen wanted to speak with the chief about the resignation letter that he gave to the Board last week. The Selectmen made the changes to the chiefs' pay schedules in an effort to keep tighter control over the budget, not to punish anyone.

Mr. Kiley noted that it is unsustainable to keep putting extra money into the department every year. The Selectmen are sincere in their commitment to add to the department as revenues allow.

Chief Gannon stated that the Fire Department has been asking for additional funding going back to when Jim Black was chief. He said that it is impossible for him to do the job with only 9 hours per week. The assistant chief and deputy chief got raises, but he got a pay cut. He said there are many calls that he does not even request to be paid for.

Mr. Kiley said that the Selectmen do not want to lose Chief Gannon's expertise on the department. They are sorry that it has come to this; it was not their intent.

Mr. Hevy asked if Chief Gannon supports Assistant Chief Holway to be the next chief, and Chief Gannon said he absolutely does.

Chief Gannon said he has no hard feelings about this, he understands the position of the Board. He left the meeting at 5:30 PM.

There being no further business, at 5:40 PM Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant