February 12, 2025

6:03 pm meeting called to order by Mike Bedini.

Select Board members present: Mike Bedini, Tim Zelazo

Select board members absent: Neil Oleson

Others present: Joan Lewis, Diana Worth, Jim White

Selectboard:

* Mike Bedini tabled the approval of the minutes from the January 29, 2025 meeting until the next meeting as was not in attendance on January 29, 2025.
* Bid Opening for excess Humvee vehicles no longer in use by the highway department:
  + Tom Rotolo, Clarksburg, MA - $1250.00 for 3 Humvee vehicles
  + Nate Gilbert, Colrain, MA - $1800.00 for 3 Humvee vehicles
  + John Thibedeau, Charlton, MA - $8100.00 for 3 Humvee vehicles
  + Village Trucks Sales, John Szczepaniak, Jr. – The bid was a package for all 3. They submitted bids separately as follows: 1 Humvee with no wheels $190.00; 1 Humvee with left front light $2190.00; 1 Humvee with front winch $2490.00 for a grand total of $4870.00.
  + Christopher Smith, Cumberland, RI - $6000.00 for 3 Humvee vehicles
  + Melanie Matte, Readsboro, VT - $5000.00 for 3 Humvee vehicles
  + Frank DeNardo, Queensbury, NY - $6100.78 for 3 Humvee vehicles
  + Tim Zelazo motioned to accept the bid from John Thibedeau in the amount of $8100.00 for 3 Humvee vehicles. If John Thibedeau does not accept it, the bid will go to the second highest bidder, Frank DeNardo in the amount of $6100.78. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Bid Opening for International Paystar Truck no longer in use by the highway department
  + Village Trucks Sales, John Szczepaniak, Jr., Lanesborough, MA - $3690.00 for the International Paystar Vehicle
  + Katie Camerota, Enfield, CT - $1550.00 for the International Paystar
  + Tim Zelazo made a motion to accept the bid from John Szczepaniak, Jr. of Village Truck Sales, for the amount of $3690.00 for the International Paytar. In the event that John Szczepaniak Jr. does not accept it, the bid will go to Katie Camerota for the amount of $1550.00. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Tim Zelazo made a motion to accept the petition for joint or identical pole location on Tilda Hill Road, proposed pole 14-1. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Tim Zelazo made a motion to grant a business license to Justin and Elizabeth Henderson, dba Southview Storage at 436 Mohawk Trail. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Tim Zelazo made a motion to level fund the Selectboard Salaries, Selectboard Chair Salary, Selectboard Clerk Salary and the Selectboard Supplies and Expenses account. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Bid received for $5987.95 from Arigoni Contractor’s to repair the damage to the fire department from Jim’s accident. Mike instructed Joan to check with the insurance company for a claim and find out what the deductible is. Discussion continued until the next meeting.

Select Board Meeting

February 12, 2025

Jim White, Highway Department Superintendent:

* Jim reviewed the MIIA training courses he took.
* There needs to be a summary posted in the highway department of all accidents/incidents for the year.
* Plowing near the residence at 5 Oleson Road, their fence is close to the road and was broken by the force of the snow thrown from the plow. Jim was wondering if the town is responsible for repairing it. Mike instructed Joan to send them a letter saying that the town will pay the cost to fix the fence this time but, in the future, they need to set the fence back due to snow. They can come to the next meeting to discuss it if they would like.
* Leak in the ceiling in the ladies’ room at the senior center.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

* Tax Collector on vacation 2/16/25 - 2/20/25.
* On Washington’s birthday the town hall will be closed.
* Joan requested permission to run an ad for the accountant position. The board approved her posting this.

Public Comment:

Diana Worth, Animal Control Officer

* Requested cell phone stipend for herself and Jeremy for $35 each as they use their personal cell phones.
  + Tim Zelazo made a motion to pay a monthly $35 stipend each to Jeremy Dodge and Diana Worth, Animal Control Officers, for their cell phones, payments to start on the next pay period. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* A dog was removed from a home on 44 Stryker Road. The home is inhabitable and full of gas cans. Diana wanted the board to discuss this with the fire department, so they are aware of the safety concerns in case of a fire. Mike informed her to write a letter to the board of health with the information. Regarding the dog being removed from this home, the dog was sent to Boston for evidence in this case. The dog is soon being returned to the owner.
* Animal vet bills were discussed. There is to be a line item under the ACO expenses for vet bills for the next fiscal year. They have previously been coming out of the ACO supplies and expenses account and will continue that way for the remainder of fiscal year 2025.
* MDAR will be inspecting the dog kennel once per year. Signage needs to be posted at the kennel. An invoice was submitted for the signs.
* Diana spent $224.61 out of her pocket for dog expenses for the animal that was removed from the Stryker Road home. Mike instructed Joan to add to the agenda for the next meeting to discuss adding more funds to Diana’s expense account.
  + Mike Bedini made a motion to reimburse Diana Worth for her out of pocket expenses in the amount of $224.61. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.

Tim Zelazo made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.