

Minutes September 16, 2013

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. Ron, Chris and Clem were present.

Public Feedback: Lynn Warman was at the meeting to show the Selectmen pictures of broken and damaged stones in the town's cemeteries. Many of these stones are marking veteran's graves and need to be cared for. There are some stones that have already been contracted for repair. It's the town's responsibility to provide maintenance on veteran's stones.

Mike Berry, the contractor mowing the cemeteries, discussed an issue with his contract. The contract states that the last payment (October) will be held back until all summer decorations have been removed from the cemeteries. However, the Cemetery Ordinance states that all summer decorations need to be removed by November 1st. The Selectmen agreed that this was an oversight when the contract was drawn up and will not hold the October check until the summer decorations are removed. Mike assured the Selectmen that he plans to visit all the cemeteries on November 2nd and remove the summer decorations. Mike said that if the decorations are removed before his final mowing, he will be able to do a much better trimming job. The Cemetery Ordinance will need to be changed at the next Town Meeting. The date to remove the summer decorations will be changed to October 1st (if approved at Town Meeting.)

Minutes from previous meetings were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's report was reviewed. Selectmen discussed having two tax payments each year rather than one. This would result in a better cash flow for the town.

Old Business:

Town Office Update: The old high school was demolished on September 13, 2013 and the debris is being hauled away. Boyd Snowden is working on specs for the new town office. It will be put out for bid sometime this winter. Construction should start in the spring.

Sue reported that the town may be eligible for a \$10,000 grant from the Marshall L. & Ruth-Anne H. Gibson, Municipal Charitable Program. This grant (if received) can be used on the new town office. Suggestions were; solar panels for the roof, an attractive sign with landscaping which will keep residents informed of upcoming meetings, etc. Sue will prepare the grant application.

Land Use Ordinance Update: The committee continues to meet weekly.

Comp Plan Committee Update: None

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Road work discussion: Town Farm Road has been reclaimed and will be paved in the next few weeks.

The plans are to finish all prep work on Town Farm Road this year in anticipation of paving more next year. There needs to be more maintenance work done on other roads this fall also. Brush needs to be cut on Hunter Road, extensive work on a section of Libby Hill road, Kanokolus Road needs more gravel, to name a few projects.

New Business:

MOFGA sent a letter to the Selectmen and Assessor's Agent asking for an explanation on being taxed for portion of parcels that they recently purchased. The main "campus" for MOFGA is tax exempt. Selectmen will be meeting with the Assessor's Agent on September 20th to discuss this.

TIF Program: There has been no response from the Barn Raisers (an email has since been received) on how their TIF allocations have been used. Barry McCormick is concerned that there is no accountability for these funds. Transparency in government is crucial in this day and age.

Selectmen chose Dennis Turner Sr. to receive the Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute for 2013. A Municipal Resolution was signed by the Selectmen. They will present the award to Dennis Turner at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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