

Unity Board of Selectmen Meeting

October 7, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:30. Chris and Penny were present.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Public Feedback

Jean Bourg asked if the next scheduled selectmen's meeting on October 21 could be moved to another day or another time so that everyone could attend the Candidates Forum at UCCPA scheduled for the same time.

Chris reported several complaints about the lack of warning signs and dust at the Town Farm Road construction area. Mary Leaming and Tony Avila both said they had experienced problems driving through the area. Chris reports that the gravel work is done and paving starts next week.

Chris and Penny signed the warrant that was prepared by Sue.

Fire Chief Dave Smith was present to talk about the Fire Department budget. Penny asked about money received from MOFGA and the Raceway for special FD presence there. Dave said the money covers wages for firemen who work the events. Dave will meet with MOFGA fair director about increasing compensation for firemen being there; that pay hasn't been increased in several years. Dave anticipates some upcoming purchase that will use budgeted funds. The Fire Dept continues looking for savings opportunities: they recently changed insurance carriers to save money. Chris asked about grants to buy turnout gear; Dave said they didn't get the grants. Penny asked if the FD had enough people. Dave said that among non-college personnel they have one person in their twenties, one person in their thirties and the rest are over 40. The college student fire fighters are very useful, but require training.

Dave suggested that the selectmen look for savings by examining our relationship with Knox. The towns who contract with Knox (Freedom, Brooks, Thorndike) should have a clause for payment of costs when Unity is called in, since Unity does not contract with Knox.

Dave asked the selectmen to deal with three items:

1. Buy a Knox Box for the new town office. A Knox Box is a small safe attached to the exterior of a building with a key to the entrance.
2. Add an article to the next warrant declaring that the Unity Fire Department is an entity of the Town of Unity. The Unity Fire Department was incorporated in 1947 as a separate entity and although the FD is obviously a municipal FD, this creates a gray area.
3. The work done by firemen on Town Farm road (sprinkle water to keep down dust) is not properly fire department work and the 22 hours of employee work should be paid out of the road budget, not the FD budget.

10/07/2014

Mary Leaming was at the meeting to introduce herself at the new Programs Director at Unity Raisers.

Chris reported that he had one phone call asking questions about the Comprehensive Plan and the Ordinance Review Committee. Jean suggested that he should forward all such concerns/feedback to the appropriate committees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.