



TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

SELECTBOARD

February 23, 2016 Town Hall

7:30 P.M.

Selectboard Offices

Minutes

Board Members present: Chair Dick Wagner, Evan Johnson and Charley Rose

Present: Administrative Assistant Peg O'Neal, Correspondent Elodi McBride, Steve Nelson and Jim Drawe, Jackie Gaughan, Paul Dunlevy and Tom Wisnauckas.

ACTION ITEMS

January 12 and February 9th draft minutes were reviewed.

February 2nd minutes were signed

Hazardous waste notification form was signed.

- Estimate for repairs at RH Conwell: Dick made a motion to accept Julian Traista's estimate for \$1,600 for repairs to RH Conwell building. Evan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

STM vs ATM regarding Broadband article

Wording of Broadband article:

- Charley Rose invited Steve Nelson and Jim Drawe to the meeting because Steve had some ideas on possible changes to the language of WiredWest's draft. Subjects to discuss included "Authority of the Selectboard" and "Language indicating that the town would retain ownership and control of the network if the town left the co-op". Steve stated that the language now reads that the cooperative owns it all. Jim Drawe suggested putting in the clause "The network assets could never be used as collateral for a loan". This would protect the assets. One of the questions to be presented to the Finance Committee is "Is it really ownership or the protection of assets?"
- The Governor's current stance on Broadband and MBI's current position were explored.
- Some groups feel that some members of the Selectboard may have already chosen WiredWest and would not take into consideration other avenues and others feel that The Finance Committee is opposed to anything cooperative.
- The pros and cons of voting for debt authorization at a special town meeting instead of at an annual town meeting were discussed.
- Municipal Light Commissioners, independent of the Selectboard could be elected at a town meeting.
- Question posed to Finance Committee from Jim Drawe: "What changes to the operating agreement would the Finance Committee suggest to WiredWest that would provide for protection of the asset?"

- Evan made a motion to hold a vote in a special town meeting with language authorizing debt for the building of a broadband network, before the annual town meeting, subject to the Governor's pause. Charley seconded. Evan and Charley were in favor. Dick was opposed. Motion passed.
- Statement of satisfaction for Service Master was signed.
- Helen Pollard's funding request article for Sesquicentennial Celebration was discussed. This will be referred to the Finance Committee.
- Discussion of correspondence to Gateway re: FY16 reduction in MSBA payback. The correspondence to Gateway will be sent to Leyla Taylor of Sullivan Hayes and Quinn.
- March 5 was selected as the date for moving the Treasurer and Accountant upstairs
- Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation concerning the Town is deferred to the next meeting.

Budget:

- Tax foreclosure expense 10145.9: All of the property has been addressed. Reduce expense by \$2,000, leave \$500 in account.
- Fire Dept. fuel: 603202: \$5,000 in account. Could be reduced because of declining fuel costs.
- Library operating cost: Heating costs are less than last year. Town's appropriation could be reduced.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Discussion re: Moran demo survey (no supporting paperwork)

Latest correspondence from Brian Dodge

Order allowing Assessors to inspect Mark Brooks' property

Solarize Worthington meeting March 8th

New assessment from PVPC

BOH concerns re: 222 West Street

Town Hall Septic System Certificate of Compliance

Library beam update

Proposed FY17 school budget

Adjournment: Dick moved to adjourn at 9:45. Evan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux

Recording Secretary