



TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

SELECTBOARD

March 29, 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, Alex Lak, Jackie Gauger, Joel and Sara Upton.

Highway Superintendent Cork Nugent: Overtime/health insurance:

- Dick researched two different job categories: Average scale of laborer's wage is \$18 and \$22; heavy equipment operator is \$21 and \$25. Currently, Cork's employees are making \$19 and \$22 per hour.
- Dick said that it takes 140 hours of overtime to make up the Health Insurance increase. The "Hold Them Harmless" clause is based on 140 hours of overtime which did not happen this year.
- The two Highway Dept. employees are not interested in overtime; more interested in more money. Cork will come forward with a proposal to increase their hourly wage.
- The Board agreed to a stipend to cover the Health Insurance increase as necessary. Changing health insurance companies will be looked at because of a 7% increase this year.
- Cork wants to hire seasonal help. Peg will look up the rules as applied to age.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes:

March 15th draft minutes were reviewed.

Broadband discussion: MLP inquiry of Town Counsel/Wired West:

- Alex Lak relayed the Finance Committee's meeting with Steven Kulik. Mr. Kulik would be more than willing to talk to the Selectboard if requested. The towns are getting together to look at other options in case the current options fall through. Alex believes that the original MBI deadline of June 30th to vote for the debt authorization in order to have access to money from the state has become a moot point and Steve advises to hold off on this.
- Joel Upton stated that some might think that there is more benefit to the town to have Broadband than there is to have their own school system. Jackie Gaugen mentioned that Steven Kulik's name was not on the agenda.
- Charley does not believe that there is any reason to look at other options at this time. WiredWest is asking for voluntary contributions of \$1,000. Sara Upton suggested that it could come out of the MBI grant to study Broadband.
- Charley indicated that WiredWest's Steve Nelson and Jim Drawe feel that the Selectboard by default were the MLP Board. Charley wants the Town Counsel to ponder that question.

- Steve Nelson's letter to the Berkshire Eagle complaining about MBI led to his resignation from the WiredWest executive committee. Charley was elected to the WiredWest Executive Committee at the Becket meeting.

Correspondence:

FY 15 EMPG contract: paperwork was signed

Final Hilltown CDC Reserve Fund Grant: The quarterly report was signed

Forest Legacy Partnership: Discussion ensued and letter of support was signed.

Park Protection plea: Discussed and refused.

Selectboard Town Report: Discussion ensued.

Brian Dodge hearing update: It appears that Brian Dodge no longer has a licensed business in Vermont. After the April 23rd inspection of the Dodge property, the Board will explore with Town Counsel the possibility of taking legal action should the clean-up not be completed to BOH's satisfaction. If the inspection does not pass current regulations, they expect to return to the judge after May 2nd.

PVPC's searching for MPO representatives. Evan will become a MPO representative and Charley will look into it.

MIIA: Health benefits renewal proposal was signed.

Administrative Secretary: Peggy's request for a raise to the Finance Committee was discussed. Peggy submitted average wages of administrative secretaries in other towns which were \$19 to \$25. Evan made a motion to recommend that Peggy receive the requested \$12,000 raise for the next fiscal year. Charley seconded. Dick abstained. Motion passed 2-0.

Suzanne's mileage: Suzanne spoke to her Tax Accountant who recommended that she ask for gas mileage in lieu of a raise. The shortest distance is 32 miles long trip. Dick will double check the mileage and present this at the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow night.

Finance Committee: Dick will present the Board's recommendation for Peggy's increase, Suzanne's request for gas mileage, and Cork's proposal for a salary increase for his employees to the Finance Committee tomorrow evening.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

FY2017 Budget summary

January 18, 2016 HRMC meeting minutes

Route 143 Project Public Hearing April 7th at 7:00 P.M.

PVPC June 9th Annual Meeting

Adjournment: Evan made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 P.M., Charley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux
Recording Secretary