

Minutes from the Board of Health meeting held at 6 PM in the BOH Office, and the 7 PM Joint Meeting of the Water Districts, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and the Board of Health, Held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Thursday the 15th day of December, 2016

Present: Kenneth J. Lacey Jr., Nathan Stewart, Donald Makowski and Rachael Carney.

Attendees: See Attached List

6 PM: public meeting opened by Mr. Lacey.

- A motion was made to accept the minutes of 11/3/16 by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski - unanimous.

~ Letter to the BOS from the BOH was reviewed. A motion to accept the letter, and read into record, at tonight's joint meeting on Reed Street, was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.

~ A variance request for the installation of a septic system at 247 Bemis Rd was reviewed. A motion to grant the variance was made by Mr. Stewart, Second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.

~Review of the Special Permit Application of a Communication Tower on Southbridge Rd. will be tabled to the next meeting of the BOH.

Payroll

- A motion to ratify payroll for Rachael Carney for wks.; 11/5 – 12/10, 2016 in the amounts of \$339.30, \$326.26, \$313.20, \$326.00, \$476.34, and \$339.03 was made by Mr. Stewart second Mr. Makowski – unanimous.
- A motion to ratify payroll for Ken Lacey in the amount of \$400 for inspections, was made by Mr. Stewart second Mr. Makowski – Mr. Lacey abstained.
- A motion to ratify payroll for Dawn Toon for November 2016 in the amount of \$340 was made by Mr. Stewart second Mr. Makowski – unanimous.
- A motion to ratify payroll for Chris Jones for inspections made in the amount of \$515.00 was made by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.

December 15, 2016 at 6 PM

- A motion to ratify payroll for Sydney Plante for November in the amount of \$75.00 was made by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.

Bills

- A motion to ratify and pay Anchor Engineering \$3900, Mr. Stewart made \$63.70 & \$971.95 second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.
- A motion to ratify and pay Warren Sewer \$90.00 was made by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.
- A motion to ratify and pay Dell \$95.91 was made by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.
- A motion to ratify and pay SWS 2083.33 was made by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.
- A motion to ratify and pay WB Mason \$25.79 was made by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.
- A motion to ratify and pay Gerry Fountain \$15.00, \$15.00, \$15.00, and \$15.00 was made by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.
- A motion to ratify and pay Hobbs & Warren \$77.00 was made by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.
- A motion to ratify and pay Petty Cash and Travel Expenses \$112.45 & \$43.69 was made by Mr. Stewart second by Mr. Makowski – unanimous.

~ A brief prep and discussion for the 7 PM joint meeting on the Reed Street wells was had.

6:50 PM A motion to adjourn, and reconvene, at 7 PM, in the Selectmen's meeting room, for the joint meeting on Reed Street, was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mr. Makowski - unanimous.

7 PM The public meeting of the BOH was reopened Mr. Lacey.

7:02 PM The joint meeting of Boards, Planning, Selectman, and Health, and both Water Districts, to discuss bringing public water to residents on Reed Street, with drinking water wells impacted by 1-4, Dioxane, was opened by Selectmen James Gagner.

Mr. Gagner addressed the attendees with a description of the current situation facing the 10 impacted residents on Reed Street. He then asked Mr. Kenneth B. Lacey Jr., Chairman of the Board of Health, for an update. Mr. Lacey explained to the attendees the efforts of the Board of Health over the past year to notify residents in the Reed Street area of the situation. He also explained our efforts along with MassDEP to test over 25 additional homes for 1-4, Dioxane and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's).

Attorney Robert George, representing the West Warren Water District, addressed the attendees. He explained that a merger of the two water districts was indeed being actively explored and what that process entails. He emphasized that it is not an easy process, it could take years to finalize, and that it may not be the best option for the water districts. Atty. George took questions from residents. 1. Can the water lines be run prior to the merger? A. It is possible. 2. Can Warren Water connect to the West Warren Water lines with some sort of easement? A. It is Possible. Atty. George emphasized to the attendees that several options were possible but

without engineering and funding for the project it is impossible, now, to determine which option will work best. Funds are critical for this project to move forward according to Atty. George.

Mr. William Ramsey, Chairman of the Planning Board explained to the attendees that the Planning Board had approved \$2500 of \$5000 for Mr. William Scanlan to explore grant options as requested by the West Warren Water District. The additional \$2500 has not yet been approved for Mr. Scanlan to apply for the grants.

Mr. Scanlan addressed the attendees and described an assistance program for \$150,000, offered through the USDA-Rural Development for emergency water situations. He feels this is a perfect fit for the Reed Street situation and the reimbursable funds could be utilized to get this project engineered. Once engineering is complete, know how much additional funding to seek. Mr. Scanlan said he is ready to apply for these funds. Once the Planning Board votes to approve the full \$5000, he will begin the application process and work with an engineer to get them moving forward.

Mr. Gagner reminded the attendees that the Town of Warren does not own the Water Districts and that he was not sure exactly what the town could do. A Commissioner from the Warren Water District explained that a similar situation occurred years ago, at Heritage Park on Bemis Rd and the Town did obtain funding for that project. It was suggested that the process used then be replicated for the Reed Street project.

An attendee was thinking freely and made a few suggestions of some unorthodox ways to bring potable water to the impacted residents. Other attendees had concerns of what would happen to these homes if public water could not be supplied; would they end up as unwanted abandoned properties in tax title? No one could offer a response.

Mr. Tyler Wolanin of Senator Anne Gobi's office confirmed the existence of both Grants and low interest loans. Mr. Gagner said he would call both Senator Gobi's and Representative Todd Smola's offices next week to get more information and see what else they could offer to help us out with this situation.

Mr. Ramsey asked for the authorization of the attendees to speak to the Planning Board about authorizing the funds for Mr. Scanlan to go forward with the application/engineering process. All present agreed, no objections were noted. Mr. Ramsey said he would seek the approval from his board and let Mr. Scanlan know when he was all set to move forward.

Mr. Lacey read into a record a letter from the BOH to the BOS dated December 15, 2016. The letter outlined what tasks have been done by the BOH to date. It also explains; now that the project is to the funding/engineering stage; the services/authority of the BOH would be limited. It further encourages the Selectman to take action to help bring this project to fruition.

Mr. Scanlan said he felt he would be far enough along to present information at another Joint meeting in about 6 weeks. A date of February 2, 2017 at 7 PM was set for the next joint meeting by Mr. Gagner. Mr. Gagner asked Mrs. Carney to send him the date in Google Calendar.

8 PM A motion to close was made by Mr. Lacey, second by Mr. Stewart – unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Stewart,
Board of Health, Clerk
Date approved,