

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2014
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

PRESENT: Mr. David A. Delanski, Chairman, Mr. Robert E. Lavash, Sr. Vice-Chairman and Mr. Dario F. Nardi, Clerk
ATTENDEES: See list (attached)

Chairman Delanski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance in the Selectmen's Meeting Room in the Shepard Municipal Building.

Chairman Delanski announced that tonight's meeting was being both video and audio taped and requested anyone in the audience to disclose if they are recording tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

TOWN HALL - PROPOSAL FOR CHENOT ASSOCIATES- ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Mr. Lavash started the discussion informing the Board there was a proposal for services from Chenot Associates who had come out to quote the work necessary on the Town Hall portico. He asked fellow THR Committee member Madeline Witaszek to speak on the matter further. Ms. Witaszek spoke on the scope of work to be performed by Chenot Associates; architectural services to accomplish the following: assist in the preparation of a list of preservation masonry specialists and prepare RFP (request for proposal) for preservation masonry specialists to assess portico conditions and perform repairs to stone portico. There was discussion that funding for this expense would be from the Historical Preservation Grant. Mr. Delanski reviewed proposal and asked that the language "late payments will be charged interest at 1.5% per month" be stricken out from the agreement, as the Town would not have reason to incur late charges, there was a consensus of the Board to strike out the language. A motion to approve proposal with language stricken out and have Chairman sign was made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

HIGHWAY SURVEYOR – SEASONAL HIRES & CONTRACTORS

Prior to the discussion on Seasonal Hires & Contractors; there was a discussion on recent events involving Town vehicles and property damage. Mr. Delanski posed several questions to HS Tom Boudreau over the recent reports. HS Boudreau reported small town truck working in back parking lot of school backed into pole, taking it down. Contact was made with school custodian who removed the pole and took care of wires. Event occurred around 11:30 PM and no contact made to police; BOS notified after the fact. Selectboard requested that a memo be sent to all Town departments that operate Town vehicles of the importance of reporting all incidents to police and that a copy of the police & incident report is submitted to the BOS within 48 hours to avoid any problems with claim filings. Failure to report could result in further action taken by the Board. There was a brief discussion on possibly other property damage at the school and damage to a rear axle on a vehicle. HS Boudreau remarked that surveillance video is inconclusive as to who/what did the damage at this time but would continue to work with school personnel. Regarding the axle, it was done when the vehicle was pushing back snow. The Board requested that incident reports be filed on all three events with the Police and copies of report(s) be submitted to the BOS.

A discussion was had on the request by HS Boudreau to increase the hourly rate paid to snow contractors by \$10.00 (from \$60-\$70). HS Boudreau commented last increase to rates was 6 years ago; concern is that without an increase there is potential to lose current vendors when their contracts are up on December 31st. There was additional discussion on the terms for the upcoming contracts to be for Jan-June 30, 2015 following which contracts would run on a fiscal year term. There was discussion on the impact a rate increase would have on the budget; and current spending on the Snow & Ice

account. Mr. Lavash suggested a \$5.00 increase to the rate; Mr. Delanski was agreeable to same. Ms. Como inquired about rates in surrounding communities; Mr. Delanski offered that they were within the range of \$60.00-\$80.00. Hearing the brief discussion that followed, Mr. Nardi was not in favor of risking the loss of vendor(s) and felt that \$10.00 was appropriate. Mr. Lavash removed his original motion and a motion to increase plow contractor rates by \$10.00 to \$70.00 effective 1/1/15 was made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous. Memo to HS and Town Account of this increase was requested. In closing, Mr. Lavash asked HS Boudreau to prepare a cost estimate on contractor costs for the last fiscal year.

7:15 BOARD OF ASSESSORS – TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

Present: Assessor George Shields, Assessor Nathan Steward, Assistant Assessor Mary Lou Coache

Mr. Delanski called the hearing open at 7:20; Mr. Nardi read the public notice. The hearing was turned over to Board of Assessor member Mr. George Shields, who presented the Assessors figures relating to final valuation for FY 2015 as approved by DOR. Town valuation came in at \$317 million; est. tax levy \$5.9 mil resulting in a residential tax rate of \$18.75 per thousand, a decrease of \$.35 from last year. A copy of the Assessors document presented to the Selectboard is attached hereto. With no discussion from the Board or the audience, Mr. Delanski closed the hearing at 7:25 PM. A motion to approve a single level tax classification for FY 2015 was made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous. Mr. Shields, Mr. Steward and Ms. Coache left the meeting.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Mr. Stanley Soltys inquired about the meeting of November 25th and the discussions between the parties present. He wished clarification on the solar projects and the purchase of power. Mr. Delanski summarized the prior meeting noting Borrego is developer on Landfill solar project; the two other gentlemen were from Synergy Energy. Discussion stemmed around the Town's potential opportunity to purchase power (net meter). Mr. Delanski noted that prior discussions were had about options of purchasing power/net metering from the landfill transaction in addition to looking at other alternatives for net metering; hence the other two gentlemen were invited to present to the Board and Mr. Scanlan. The matter is still undergoing further discussion. Mr. Nardi pointed out there are no signed agreements in place, which is where confusing and heated discussion took place at times. Ms. Beverly Soltys inquired about documents signed in June. Mr. Nardi clarified a Letter of Intent was signed; to move the "landfill" project forward, but no agreements were signed; as any agreement(s) would have to be put to the Town at a town meeting. Mr. Delanski remarked that the June document referenced by Ms. Soltys was too simply to designate Borrego Solar as the developer on the landfill project. Mr. Soltys remarked of the ongoing discussion at the 25th meeting between the Board and Mr. Scanlan; but noted that no coverage was provided on the replay following the departure of the gentlemen from Synergy Energy. Mr. Delanski could not answer as to the replay; but would make an inquiry. Mr. Delanski mentioned he had spoken with Synergy Energy that discussions were still ongoing and they are still interested in doing work with the Town.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board members reviewed the following:

1. Correspondence from Malcolm Speicher, Beaver Specialist offering wildlife management services. He is a certified and licensed wildlife management professional that traps and installs flow devices. He has reached out to Highway, Conservation, and Board of Health if the community is a candidate for receiving such services. Board would like comments from Highway and Conservation.
2. Correspondence from Dept. of Housing & Community Development – The Town has met the Special Conditions relating to the FY 2014 CDBG Program Grant Agreement. Noted
3. November 2014 Report from Animal Control Officer. Noted
4. Correspondence from Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust, announcing Estate Planning Outreach Grants for Open Space Communities and the 2015 Open Space Committee Conference. Both of these endeavors support Open Space Committees in the Community. Additional information can be found in the Selectmen's office. Noted
5. Correspondence from Comcast with information regarding Xfinity services and rates for Warren effective December 20, 2014. Additional information rates and channel lineup can be found in the Selectmen's office. Noted

TREASURY WARRANT(S) AND INVOICES

Motion to accept warrants #46 (payroll) and #47 (vendor) dated December 1, 2014 in the amounts of \$40,734.34 and \$701,743.56 respectively was made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

MINUTES

None:

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lavash made comment of recent Tree Lighting event at the Town Common this past weekend. Congratulations to Ms. Millie Gushue for putting on the event and requested a Thank You be sent; there was a consensus of the Board.

Mr. Nardi announced the next Dept. Head meeting is scheduled for December 16th. Amendments to the Hiring policy as per the last DHM have been made and drafts distributed to fellow board members for review and approval at the next meeting. He thanked, staff member Becky Acerra for assistance in preparing amended document, which when approved will be handed out to all department heads.

Mr. Delanski discussed a recent invoice for coffee service at the Highway department; unfortunately this service is not made available in other departments and not part of budget. Consensus of the Board is to return invoice to Highway Department; citing payment cannot be honored.

Lastly, request was made to have a memo sent to all Departments regarding the policy on Holiday pay; working the day before and after a holiday; approvals on absences to be in writing and sent to BOS.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop
Administrative Secretary

Dario F. Nardi, Clerk