

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2020

Draft

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Lynne Bertram, Chair.

Present: Norman (Nope) Martin, Brian Bontrager, Vicky Young, Nancy Robinson and Jeff Sailer

Visitors: Gloria Martin, Hank Smith, Bob & Sue Kancir, Bruce Maxham, George Spear (left a few minutes into the meeting) Allan Stein, VT Standard Reporter. Art Lynds of ABLE Waste

Brian moved to accept the minutes of December 17, 2019. Nope seconded the motion. Brian asked to amend the minutes to reflect that he had asked Nope if he was ok with him voting and Nope said that it was. Motion to accept minutes carried.

Visitors: Gloria asked Lynne if she was running again for Selectboard in March as she had heard that Lynne was not and that George Spear was running. Lynne reported that she is running again and enjoys representing the town at TRORC and GUVSWMD. George had no comment to offer.

Art Lynds came before the board to explain the recycling increase in his proposed new contract that will begin July 1, 2020. Current recycling contract began July 1, 2017 at \$5,600 and has increased 4% to the current amount of \$5,800. New contract amount is \$10,400 as recycling cost to ABLE have increased to over \$7,000 per year and do not include personnel, equipment and mileage. Options for town to consider; Town can do away with the recycling program, continue program with new rate with bag increase or continue program with new rate with annual increases of between 2-4 %. Brief discussion of composting program which will begin in July. 13-gallon composting bags can be purchased from ABLE for \$4.00 per bag and 33-gallon bags for \$6.00 for food residuals and yard debris. No decision made at this time. Will revisit during budget meeting.

Highway Report: Plowing and sanding most every day! Road crew members seem to be working out well and adjusting to job. Working on re-building a plow. Two loads of salt were delivered last week. Jeff has spoken to the contractor working on Old Bridgewater Hill in regards to the access permit, water has been running across the road creating a safety risk. Jeff will contact contractor again and let him know that if the town has problems with the road or has to put on extra material, the contractor will be invoiced. Discussion of maintenance on Maple Valley Road. Town and property owners have had an agreement in past to only keep open on an as needed basis due to the narrowness of the road, stone wall and trees as well as safety to employees and equipment. Road crew will open up road with loader and caretaker will be contacted for clarification of access needs.

Treasurer's File: Order sheet # 16 & 17 (ck #'s 96-2500 and e-ck #'s 18635-18655) were reviewed and signed. Payroll orders were also signed. Town has received the 2019 Equalization Study Results from Property Valuation and Review. The results for the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is 98.21% up from 91.41% and the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is 5.9% down from 21.93%. These new numbers are reflected from this past year's town wide re-appraisal. Current budget report given to board for review.

January 7, 2020 minutes cont.

Clerk's File: None

Old business: None

New business: SOS contact did not arrive as expected, tabled for this meeting.

Discussion of funding of proposed new fire station at 1.8 million. Nancy is working on getting information regarding bonding vs borrowing at a local bank. Board needs to decide term of loan and which option is in the town's best interest. Current rates for both the bond bank and local bank are in the 3 – 3.25% range for a 30-year loan. Vicky will contact the town auditor to review rates and get his opinion on the best option for the town.

Discussion of letter sent to town by Mr. Kancir regarding the recent board vote to give the BACF the remaining \$56,000 of school reserve funds. Mr. Kancir felt that there was a conflict of interest for board member, Brian Bontrager to vote as he is closely tied to the organization as its director. Brian reported that he had contacted VLCT and was told that as long as he followed the policy and stated his connection: feeling that he was voting in the best interest of the building not the organization and had no personal gain then he could vote. Lynne agreed and stated that this had already been voted and was done. Nope stated that he felt that this opened the door for him to work on any town project as long as he stated beforehand that he was voting in the best interest of the town and was most often the lowest bidder, therefore saving the town money.

Notice of GUVSWMD board meeting on Thursday, January 9th at 4:30 pm in Norwich. If Lynne is not able to attend or call in as quorum is needed for budget vote, Nancy will call in, in her place.

Notice of Windsor County Budget Hearing on January 15th at 5:00 pm.

Nancy reminded everyone on the upcoming Informational Meeting for the proposed fire station on Wednesday, January 15th at 6:30 pm at the Grange Hall.

Being no further business, the motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson
Clerk