

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, September 27, 2016

Howard Bronstein and Leslie Rule were present. The meeting was called to order at 6: 32 p.m. Phil Lococo arrived at 6:55 p.m. The minutes of August 23, 2016 and September 13, 2016 were accepted as submitted.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Mert Taylor, Jr. reported structures have been raised and blacktop has been applied to Rte. 116. The center lines of South Central Street and Rte. 116 will be applied within the next week.

The New Holland tractor mower broke down and is now back in service. The new dump truck has been ordered and is expected in mid winter to early spring.

Equipment rentals include a mini excavator for cleaning ditches and a chipper to aid with brush cutting.

Leslie asked about the process for determining departmental projects. Mert, Jr. explained that some projects like grading roads and mowing are done annually and other projects are prioritized according to need.

Howard and Mert, Jr. will look at shrubs that obstruct motorists' visibility at the intersection of Rte. 116 and South Central Street.

Generator Bid Award

After reviewing the generator bids opened at the September 13th meeting, Fire Chief Dennis Thatcher and Assistant Chief David Alvord recommended the bid from Andrus Power Solutions for \$18,970. Leslie moved to accept the generator \$18,970.00 bid from Andrus Power Solutions and grant permission for Dennis and David to negotiate a service agreement the company.

The motion, seconded by Howard, was approved.

Energy Committee

Howard moved to accept the gift of \$5,800.00 from Direct Energy Solar (DES) for the purpose of town energy improvements in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53A. The motion was seconded by Leslie and was approved. The Energy Committee would like to use \$2,600.00 of the funds to hire a consultant to assist with the " 20% Energy Reduction Plan" requirement as a part of the Green Communities Program Application. Howard moved to approve the

expenditure of \$2,600.00 from the DES donation for engineering services to support development of the Energy Reduction Plan. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was approved.

Other Business

The Small Scale Grant agreement (\$2,700.00) for the Board of Health was signed by Select Board Chair Howard Bronstein.

The October 11th and November 8th Select Board meetings will take place as scheduled.

Paula King noted the acceptance of the #2 fuel oil price of \$1.893 per gallon. Due to daily price fluctuation HCOG gave a two day notice to accept.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. for the All Boards Meeting and reconvened at 8:35 p.m. with Howard, Leslie, and Paula present.

The Board accepted Phil Lococo's resignation from the Select Board effective December 31, 2016 with deepest regret. Phil has been a member of the Select Board since 1998.

Susan Pearson's resignation from the Energy Committee effective immediately was accepted with deep regret.

The Highland Ambulance/EMS Board of Directors unanimously approved the Select Board's recommendation of Edward Morann to the Highland Ambulance/EMS Board of Directors.

Axia Networks will give two presentations on Thursday, October 13th to describe a proposal for building a privately-funded fiber-to-the-home network in Western Massachusetts.

DHCD is contemplating several changes to the MA CDBG program for 2017 and has issued the following plan entitled "CDBG One-Year Action Plan, FY 2017 Preliminary Proposed Changes".

Miscellaneous mail and meeting notices were reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King, Administrative Secretary