

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, January 23, 2018

Howard Bronstein and Winton Pitcoff were present; Leslie Rule was absent. The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. The minutes of January 9, 2018 were accepted as submitted.

### Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Merton Taylor, Jr. informed the Board of a January 13<sup>th</sup> incident in which a dump truck operated by a departmental employee took down a Verizon telephone line attached to the 14 Union Street dwelling while dumping gravel to fill in ruts on Union Street. Siding and trim boards will need to be replaced.

Damage to the track on a garage door occurred while a dump truck was being driven into the Highway Garage because the wing plow was not fully in the upright position. The door has been secured by plywood. An estimate of \$2,039.00 to repair the track was received from Overhead Doors of Pioneer Valley. The Board discussed submitting an insurance claim or seeking to add \$5,000.00 to the Reserve Fund at the Special Town Meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Winton asked about damage to the siding on the Salt Shed. Howard, during general discussions with Mert, Jr. in support of the superintendent, asked him to document Highway Department concerns and occurrences.

Mert, Jr. also informed the Board the Winter Roads Account is being depleted rapidly. Discussion followed concerning the Fiscal 2019 Winter Roads budget request; Mert, Jr. expects to submit a budget of \$100,000.00 for Winter Roads. Delivery of the new Freightliner truck is expected in two weeks. It is hoped the new pick-up truck will also arrive at or about the same time.

Winton asked Mert, Jr. if he has considered renting a grader from a neighboring town. Mert, Jr. replied that because a grader is used for both summer and winter work, a town-owned grader is preferred.

Winton also stated he has been questioned about the Quonset hut on South Central Street and has spoken to the Building Inspector who has agreed to follow-up on the situation. According to Mert, Jr. a driveway permit was neither requested or granted.

## Other Business

The following motions made by Winton and seconded by Howard were approved:  
To accept the updated Community Development Strategy with the following addition in the Municipal Priorities List, item 7.: “construction ‘of’ a new police station.”

To pay the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly HCOG assessment in the amount of \$100.57.

To sign a one-year contract extension for Dave Wickles Trucking.

To confirm the appointments of Warren Kirkpatrick and Casey Dwyer as Animal Control Officers.

To sign the 2018 COA Formula Grant Contract.

No action was taken on Leslie Rule’s interest in being appointed the MTRSD School Committee for the balance of the term from which she resigned. Howard will speak with Heather Davis concerning her knowledge of any interest in the position. Advertising the position was also discussed.

A proposed warrant article was received requesting changes to the MTRSD Regional Agreement assigning responsibility for transportation to MTRSD for vocational education students from towns that are not members of the Franklin Tech District. These towns will continue to pay for such transportation. Two additional Regional Agreement articles may be forthcoming: 1. Remove all language with respect to tuition arrangements with the Town of Rowe, thus permitting future tuition agreements with the Town of Rowe to be negotiated between Rowe and the District. 2. Allow for the integration of District 6<sup>th</sup> grade students into the Mohawk Middle School.

Eleven people have signed up for the Ethics Seminar; Thirty are needed for a representative from the State Ethics Commission to attend. It was noted this seminar will not meet the on-line or group session training required every two years.

## Correspondence

The Board received notice of veterans’ programs from the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Service District.

A KP Law e-Update entitled “KP Law Joins Leading Local and National Law Firms Pursuing Opioid Litigation on Behalf of Massachusetts Municipalities” was received.

A notice concerning the distribution of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law was received. A copy was forwarded to the Town Clerk.

Mass DOT sent notice of the Updated Project Review Committee (PRC) Approval Letter and information regarding the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary