

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, February 11, 2020

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of January 28, 2020 were accepted as submitted.

### Winter Road Conditions

Amelia Dwyer, Campbell Road, expressed concerns both verbally and in writing about the timeliness of clearing of her road during and after storms as well as the condition of West Street. She stated she was frustrated at being unable to get out for work on time during the Monday storm. Her concerns deepened to the possibility that emergency personnel and vehicles might not be able to reach residents in an emergency. She also noted a verbal altercation between her husband and a Highway Department employee later that morning. Howard stated the road crew would be immediately dispatched to an unplowed road in an emergency situation thereby enabling access for emergency crews and that the Highway Department is trying to get all Plainfield roads plowed and sanded as soon as possible during and following storms.

### Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Mert Taylor began by stating he wished Amelia had stayed. He stated he was not present during the verbal altercation between Mr. Dwyer and the Highway Department employee. Mert said both parties were stressed due separate concerns (Mr. Dwyer's due to Campbell Road conditions and the Highway Department employee due to a salt delivery truck trying to maneuver in a tight space.) and words were exchanged. He has spoken to employees about having words with residents and will do so again. Otherwise, things are going OK. If there is a lot of snow during the remainder of February and March the Winter Roads budget could be overdrawn.

### Old Business

The signed IT Grant contract was received.

Howard noted a successful meeting of the MPG group on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Progress is being made on the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the MVP Action Grant.

Job descriptions have been distributed and meetings with employees has begun. Winton brought up the possibility of changing the administrative secretary's position to town administrator and hiring an assistant administrator to train for future transition to town administrator.

New language has been added to the MRF contract. HRMC has been given permission by board members to reach out to legal counsel to file an appeal regarding the prevailing wage figures in the contract.

#### Other Business

Winton moved to renew the 2020 Class II License for James Pugliese d/b/a Orchard View Farm. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved. Howard suggested contacting state and federal legislators concerning the APR process for South Central Street. Winton stated contacting MDAR might be a better approach.

Howard reported on his conversation with Planning Board Chair Brian Hawthorne and Building Commissioner Gerry Garner about South Central Street "Glamping". The lot was established before the new zoning by-laws and there is a new definition of agriculture. Board of Health criteria regarding waste disposal must be met. Tents must have NFPA approved labeling and wood stoves must be inspected. The Board established March 24, 2020 as the final date for the submission of articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The warrant will be signed and posted at the April 14, 2020 meeting.

The board received notice of required training for Animal Control officers from MDAR.

The Town has received a significant increase in room/short term rental tax since the implementation of the new short term rental regulations has gone into effect.

#### Correspondence

An email was received regarding a traffic stop.

The Board received notice of 2020 transmission line inspections/work from Eversource.

KP Law issued an eUpdate on the MMA Annual Meeting and trade Show.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary