

Union - Board of Selectmen & Assessors Meeting
February 6, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Selectmen present: Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, Sarah Drickey, Jim Justice

Others present: Jay Feyler

1. Meeting called to order: 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment:

Several Union residents were present this evening concerning the TCC issue. A few residents spoke about coming to a resolution, by initiating different methods of convergence that would not burden the tax payers regarding the repairs that need to be done to the building. They also feel that it is important that everyone is informed and thoroughly understands the issues before a decision is made. Citizens spoke of how they plan to meet with the TCC and are willing to take extra steps to bring the issues forth. Creating a committee to explore the issues was discussed and believe they should be spoken in an open forum. They would also like to see a comprehensive plan devised for the building.

4. Approve minutes of January 16, 2018:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

4-0

5. Ambulance Budget re-visit, clarification:

Jay explained the issue with the late billing due to an abundance of calls in May and June. The figures are now showing that Option A versus Option B would be the most economical route to take pertaining to the ambulance budget. The budget of night-time staffing will be re-visited for next year.

Motion by; Jim Justice to revise the ambulance budget to the original \$266,000.00

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

4-0

6. Elderly Sand Project, Knox County Sheriff's Office:

Jay explained that Deputy Tim Davis stated that the Sheriff's Office is proposing to provide sand for resident driveways and walkways for anyone sixty-five and older. The sheriff's department will put down sand in driveways/walkways if residents contact the non-emergency phone number. Jay informed him that it is against the law to use public funds for private purposes. Jay asked the vendor if they were willing to donate sand for this specific purpose, and they agreed. The town has also agreed to fill the buckets for pick-up and distribution by the Sheriff's Office.

Motion by: Jim Justice to have Knox County Sheriff's Office provide free sanding for residents sixty-five and older for driveways and walkways.

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

Discussion: Sarah stated that she is concerned about the long driveways. Jim asked if there was going to be set hours. Jay stated it is all at the discretion of the Sheriff's Office.

4-0

7. Approve Town Attorney to begin action against Portland North, International Trucks:

Jay stated that he sent Portland North a letter requesting that they re-purchase the 2015 TerraStar International truck. This action is regarding the truck being sold to the town willingly and knowingly with a defective engine. This is part of a continuing class-action law suit brought against the entire company. The vehicle is under warranty, yet, the truck remains in the repair shop for over eight weeks. Regardless, he stated that the town cannot afford to be down a truck in the middle of the winter.

Motion by: Jim Justice to move forward with the legal action against Portland North.

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

Discussion: Jim asked if the warranty covers the expense of bringing the truck to the repair shop and back. With the answer being no, he would like to see those expenses included in the law suit. Sarah showed her concern for the operators' safety while behind the wheel, which is her prime concern.

4-0

8. Discussion and vote on joining MMA's unemployment fund:

Jay explained the benefits of joining the MMA unemployment fund. For instance, if it not used within three years, most of the funds are returned, and fact finding for claims is done by their representatives and not the town. This program would start on July 1st, 2018.

Discussion: Greg asked about the current budget. Jay stated currently \$3000.00 is paid out and another \$247.00 would be added to that amount for the year.

Motion by: Sarah Drickey to join MMA, starting on July 1st, 2018.

2nd by: Jim Justice

4-0

9. Vote to allow the County to handle our census LUCA: Local Update of Census Addresses

Jay stated that Knox County has the capability to update our census at no cost to the municipality. Assuring that it is a secure and efficient system.

Motion by: Jim Justice to allow County to handle the census

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

4-0

10. Discussion on how to proceed with the TCC:

Jay emphasized that the lease issue needs to be addressed. MMA is waiting for the next step, and he needs an answer from the Board.

Discussion: Greg said he made a statement at the informational meeting and would like to rescind that based on additional information that has been received. He stated that the Board should meet with the attorney in Executive Session. Lyle also agrees that they should meet with the attorney based on legal requirements pertaining to the lease. He also feels that part of the discussion should be based on what the

town wants. He suggested a series of informational meetings, committees, and possibly another survey due to the new-found interest surrounding the TCC. Sarah agrees with Lyle.

Jay will try and set up a meeting with the town attorney at the next meeting for the Board to gain legal advice on how to follow through with the TCC.

11. Spirit of America Award:

Jay stated that the names were submitted and need to be voted on. The Board will need to vote on a secret ballot.

12. Sign Treasurers Warrant dated February 6, 2018:

Discussion: Sarah had a question which pertained to a travel expense of \$403.65. Jay explained that was for a one-night round-trip to Vermont looking for a town truck, which included mileage reimbursement.

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Sarah Drickey

4-0

13. Town Managers Report:

Jay stated that the 2015 truck is still out with repairs. The 2003 truck is also receiving repairs for leaky seals. The spare truck will be used for the pending storm.

He stated that there has been a soft opening for license plate distribution and registration. Stacey and the staff are still learning the process which could take a little bit of time.

14. Other Business:

Jay stated that the Farmers Market has requested to use the Common again this year.

Motion by: Sarah Drickey to approve the Farmer's Market using the Common this season.

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

4-0

15. Selectmen's Report:

Sarah mentioned Founders Day, stating that preliminary planning is in place, and that a few folks from the historical society along with herself will be helping. Greg mentioned that it would be nice to see more residents volunteer other than the same volunteers year after year.

16. Future Agenda Items:

17. Adjourn:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

4-0

Adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Patrick

Minutes approved 2/20/2018 4-0