

Town of Union - Board of Selectmen Meeting

January 17th, 2017

Call to Order: 6:30pm

Present: Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, Jim Justice, John Shepard, Sarah Drickey, Jay Feyler, Jim Murphy and Kitty Stevens.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Jim Murphy wanted to voice his displeasure with the dump being closed on Sunday. Greg stated that the dump could not get people to haul on Sundays so trash was sitting around and drawing rodents. DEP frowns on trash building up because of rats and maggots.

Jim Murphy stated the marijuana thing has passed and he is recommending passing a ban. Could affect valuation. People are worried about this devaluing their property if a shop was setup next to them. Greg stated that it would be a year or more before we can do anything. We are going to be following up what other towns are doing. Jim Murphy – as an assessor I feel we shouldn't allow this. Greg stated he would like to see it in town because it would be a good tax basis. We are being pro-active so that we can get what needs to be put in place. Jay stated that he and the code officer would be attending different meetings regarding this and there are issues with state law versus federal law.

Minutes of January 3rd:

Motion by Lyle Cramer to approve

2nd by Sarah Drickey

4 for 1 abstention

Abatement Request by Jim Murphy : A property owner has requested an abatement. The property was for sale for well below what it is assessed for. Paperwork provided by Jim Murphy regarding the abatement.

Motion by: Lyle Cramer to deny

2nd by John Shepard

Discussion: We are elected to set assessments for fair market value – Jim listed 6 reasons to deny. If we approved it we would be decreasing taxes by two thirds, so when someone else purchased it we would have to raise it.

Greg said we have to be careful because we could set a precedent.

Vote: 3 for and 2 abstentions

Jim Murphy will forward the findings of facts to the owner.

Ambulance Budget:

We have a loaner right now – on Friday the ambulance began smoking one of the injectors was gone. If we do 4 then the other 4 would go we should do all. We are over on repairs at this time by about \$6,000. The cost of this repair is going to be about \$4500. Our ambulance is only worth \$5,000 for trade because no one wants a 6 liter motor – keep it as a backup. We had 508 calls this year and we lost Hope at the beginning of July – we are up 50 calls we couldn't take 40 calls due to us being on call. In 2014 there were 436 calls, 2015 – there were 454 calls – 2016 – there were 508 calls. We are the busiest ambulance in the county. Jesse was asked if we have heard from Hope weather they are happy or not. They are not happy. Northeast is sending out transfers more and more. Greg asked if we keep the old ambulance do we have enough people and how are collections. Jesse said collections got behind – because of someone leaving but now Jay says we are at 54% for collections. Jesse stated that we did have one lady request the bill be dropped she just did not have the money to pay what medicare didn't. Jesse wrote it off. On Friday we had no ambulance from 9 – 3. It costs \$550 for Rockland or Thomaston to transport.

Lyle stated that he was leary of keeping the ambulance where maybe more repairs could happen.

Sarah Drickey stated that for \$5,000 it is a no brainer. Jim asked how many breakdowns that you had to get a loaner. Jesse stated 3 major – how long was it down – 1-2 weeks. It is worth it to have it for a spare. John Shepard wondered on the upcoming budget should we increase the repair budget. Jesse stated the new ambulance would have 5 years with a warranty but that wouldn't be until the next budget cycle. Gregg stated with all the new parts the probability of having more breakdowns decreases and it is a smart move to hold onto it. Usually for a loaner the company provides for free unless they are all taken. We paid \$500 for two weeks one time and that was a deal for renting an ambulance. We need to talk about this more at the next meeting.

The town is running good, people are happy Jay has some programs running good.

Supplies – PenBay is part of Maine Medical so they are cutting some of ambulance stocking, we are trying to prepare for purchasing our own supplies. Maintenance is up \$500 because regular maintenance on small equipment is going up. Payroll – if you sign up and go at night there is a \$50.00 night fee so increase in budget counts for new minimum wage in the step process also. Fuel up \$300 because the price at the pumps is slowly going up again. Jim stated that this year's fuel is running less. An increase of \$15,000. Greg stated that this was a good budget to start with. Jay needs something to work with for the other towns so we have to tentatively approve. Mr. Gaudreau if you and some others could come to the next meeting we will be revisiting this budget.

Motion by: Jim Justice to tentatively approve the ambulance budget.

2nd by Jim Justice

Vote: Unanimous

The next meeting Jesse should come back in.

Mowing Bids: See Jay's paperwork regarding the bids that were presented at the last meeting. The bids can be split or you can choose the bid for both. Lyle feels we should go with the lowest bid between the two \$25,500 and \$25,300 for the Town mowing Stevens has also bid \$67,000 for cemeteries and 24 hour property service only bid on the Town Maintenance.

Motion by: Sarah Drickey to accept the bid by Stevens for both Town and Cemetery mowing.

2nd by: John Shepard

Vote: Unanimous

Budget Committee: Jay stated there was a change in the budget schedule for the budget committee one thing has been changed to April 25 and 27th meetings. Jay reviewed the total schedule at this time.

Pole Permits – Collinstown Road – Orrin and Jay have been inspecting where they put the stakes, sometimes they sit them too close to the road and we have asked them to move them.

Motion by: Jim Justice to approve the pole permits

2nd by: John Shepard

Vote: Unanimous

Personnel Policies: table until the next meeting.

Update on Comprehensive Plan – John Shepard stated that they are halfway through it and Eric Gallant has done a good service by us. Grant and Barry are working on the format. Lyle asked when you went through the process were there any hot items. Not really.

Sign Treasurers Warrant

Motion by: Jim Justice to accept the Treasurers warrant dated January 17th, 2017

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

Discussion: John had a question about Bad Water –A new system was put in 3 or 4 years ago and it was the size for a house, this is a filter system for the public works building and it has to be serviced every year. Jim asked about Maritime 3 different deliveries - Yes there is Town Office and the Public Works building. Also, the Morton Salt bill was brought up and Jay stated we use a lot of salt for the roads.

Vote: Unanimous.

Town Manager's Report: The new truck should be ready next week and we will do the final inspection. When we take possession they will take possession of the trade in. The sand and salt is not meeting specifications. Testing was done through SW Cole there is no written report. Jay will be at the LPC Thursday there are a lot of bills – its going to be a very long day. Friday there is a Manager's meeting - Gus will be here re-doing everything downstairs for the public WIFI. There has been a lot of speed issues with the WIFI and we are putting in a public WIFI, Jay will be back in the afternoon.

Tri County – The sign still says open on Sunday – a lot of complaints.

Other: Status on residents and sand we do not give out sand and salt.

Selectmen's Report:

John: Tri County – spoke with Dave regarding the situation and it is Confidential but it will be resolving itself. There will be a new sign soon, the days that they are open now are Tues, Weds, Fri. and Saturday. Jim stated he was pleased with the new guy there at the dump and Lyle also commented the same. They actually looked to be sure things were being disposed of properly.

Motion by: Jim Justice to adjourn

2nd by: John Shepard

Vote: Unanimous

Adjourn at 7:57pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Laura J Curtis