Select Board Meeting

July 8, 2020

6:00 pm meeting called to order by Neil.

Select Board members present: Mike Bedini, Ericka Oleson and Neil Oleson.

Select board members absent: None

Others present: Jim White, Mike Gleason, Ron Bosley, Jon Oleson, Christine Dobbert and Vicki Winchell

Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/24/20 meeting. Ericka Oleson seconded. Unanimous.

Ericka Oleson made a motion to appoint Neil Oleson as the Chair for the Selectboard. Mike seconded. Unanimous.

Selectmen:

* Selectmen signed the Berkshire County Sheriff’s 911 contract for Fiscal Year 2021.
* Selectmen have scheduled a Special Town Meeting to take place on August 19, 2020 at 7 p.m. for residents to vote on allowing the town to sell property to an organization that would like to use the land for a Marijuana Farm.
* A sound barrier has been installed on Central Shaft Road by the railroad to ease the noise. Reports have been received that there is a lot of smoke coming from there. The belief is it is from the construction and the smoke should die down once the construction repairs have been completed. Mark Stinson from DEP will be coming to inspect.
* Mike has expressed that the Railroad should attend a Selectmen meeting to be held accountable with the town for their actions. The fact that they do not have to answer to anyone and work with no permits, no contact with the town officials and do not inform the residents of what is happening is unacceptable to Mike. Christine will email the Building Inspector to check if the Railroad had pulled any permits with her for their work. Christine did get DEP involved. Mike asked her to contact them to see if they could also attend a Selectboard meeting.
* Mike has requested the highway work on the front sidewalk at town hall as it is unsafe. A resident was walking next to him and almost fell over. He does not want to see anyone getting hurt. Jim will dig it up, frame it and get cement put in there after they are finished working on Tilda Hill. The walkway should be completed before Fall. Mike suggested using cement patch for now to hold it over until they can complete it. Jim will use a hydraulic cement for a quick fix for the moment.
* Mike brought up for discussion installing flags in town on public roadways and how there are too many requirements by National Grid. Ericka suggested possibly putting up our own poles.

Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* Wi-Valley meeting has been postponed for 7/9/20. No reason was given. Christine will post the new meeting when she is informed of the rescheduled date.

Select Board Meeting

July 8, 2020

* A taxpayer owning property on Peanut Road called and accused the Highway Department of plowing down their cabin on the property. The owners were told by someone the town took it down because it was dangerous. Christine straightened them out and informed them the town does not go on private property.
* Christine was informed there was a camper parked on a property on River Road for 4 days. She checked the plates and they did not match with any local landowner names. She suggests calling the state police next time they are seen there.

Jim White, Highway Supervisor:

* Swistak burial
* Foundation completed for Chuck and Judith Poirot.
* Culvert has been completed at 160 Tilda Hill Road.
* Catch basin by the Fire Department is done.
* The guys are working on repairing erosion from Bliss Road up Tilda Hill to the Monroe town line on both sides of the road.
* Cemetery mowing ongoing
* Berkshire Monument had installed Chuck and Judith Poirot’s headstone on Glenn Burdick’s grave. They were informed of their error and came and moved it.
* Eddie Poirot culvert collapsed in. Repaired.
* Doug Miller called in on July 3rd because he was injured at his house. He chose to take another weeks’ vacation. He should return to work on Monday, July 13th to light duty.

Mike Gleason, Fire Department:

* Culvert is rotted where the fire department fills the truck with water. Cement blocks will be needed for the repair. Jim mentioned he can buy them cheaper than making them, they just need transportation for the blocks.

Public Comment:

* Ron Bosley commented others have complained the Selectboard meetings are not following CDC recommended guidelines for COVID Safety – 6’ apart and wearing masks.
* Ron Bosley brought to the attention of the board that some residents are not getting what they were promised when signing up with WiValley. At numerous broadband meetings they were told foliage would not affect reception. Now they are being told it does. He also reported several residents have complained that they have been trying to contact WiValley and have been unable to reach anyone. Neil recommended Christine contact WiValley and see why they are not responding to the townspeople’s inquiries.

6:53 pm Ericka made a motion to the meeting. Neil seconded. Unanimous.