

Select Board Minutes

Date: May 24, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Next Meeting: June 16, 2022 (Thursday change due to State Primary Election)

Minutes: The minutes were accepted

Present: Richard Doughty, Brian Haynes and Carol Cochran

Department Heads:

None present

Public works has been busy with repairs transfer station – ramp going into the shed was repaired and town bridges were washed and Masterman-Newman Cemetery fence painted.

Cemeteries have been mowed and Patrick assured Richard that they will be mowed again before Memorial Day

New Business:

Bathroom Facilities at the Town Garage

Craig contacted Richard with a list on concerns that he has shared with Brian.

There are no proper facilities at the town garage. There is a sealed pit privy and a well, however the pump does not hold a prime and there is no sink so at the end of the day there is no way to clean up. There are using water from the water cooler.

Richard said that he did not know what was required and it cannot be too expensive, perhaps a few thousand dollars.

Brian said that we have the equipment. There isn't much room in the garage to add a bathroom.

Craig said the addition where the outhouse is now would work.

There is money in an account for building improvements

Richard said that he was down there and agreed that it could be put in the out crop where the outhouse is now. There would need to have heat put in that area. A soil test and design would need to be done. It could be implemented quickly and is a reasonable request.

Carol said that it was suggested at one time that the Fire Department needed more room building a new facility on the Town Garage property was suggested and that may want to think about that possibility when designing the system.

Decision regarding propane contract

Colleen had notice that the propane prices has been fluctuating between the Town Office and Fire Station. After checking into it further, found out that sales tax had been charged to the fire station bill.

A call to Downeast Energy was made to ask about the difference in what was being paid per gallon and to see if we could do a signed contract. At the time they wanted to wait to see how the market was going to be, before locking us into a price per gallon.

A contract has been sent for \$2.049 per gallon or pay the rack price plus \$.45 which would be an average of \$3.34 per gallon.

The contract was signed for 1,900 gallons of propane for the Town Office, Town Hall and Fire Station. The price is good through today. Carol will scan the contract and email to Downeast Energy tonight.

Response to Audit Draft

We have received a draft of our audit for 2021. Richard asked that everyone look it over and get comments back to Colleen, so she can commute with the auditor and get the 2021 audit. Richard wanted Dina to have a chance to look at it as well before accepting the audit.

RSU 9 Increase

Richard wanted to give a better explanation on why Weld's portion of RSU 9 allocation has increased.

Standard method for determining for allocating for local share among all the Towns within the districts is to base it on the valuation of each Towns percentage of the total in the district. Weld's valuation appropriation of the local share represents 8.5% total valuation of the district. If we paid on the local contribution we would have to pay more than 2 times the amount that we have paid instead of \$367,000 it would have been \$800,000. What they have done for Weld for many years is the calculation would include State funding for all other Towns with Weld's share \$0 and they would base it on the student base which resulted in about 3% of the total. This year there was more students in Weld than last year and percentage increase in the whole district, therefore Weld's share is going up.

Old Business:

Discussion of broadband next step

Chris has sent the mailing out for the Select Board to view before if being sent out to the entire residents and non residents. The Kiosk that Chris left is asking people to subscribe and should be asking to presubscribe, so that people know that there is no money involved at this time.

We need to move it forward and the Town has given the Board authorization to enter into negotiations with Matrix and an informational session will be scheduled then a Town vote to follow to proceed or not with Broadband. At this time, we do not have the exact costs.

We do not have upfront costs and potentially money from the Northern Borders Grant may be used for the pole survey and pole attachment, but if we don't go forward with Broadband is the Town obligated to pay back the money.

Two things to do next.

1. Confirmation of the grant to fund pole survey (estimated \$56,000 included the application and pole attachment)
2. Communicate with the townspeople where we are.

Richard will follow up with Charlie Woodworth on the Northern Borders Grant and also Chris Lynch of Matrix.

Richard will draft communication to go out to the Town and it has to be clear that it is not a done deal until we vote. We need to know how many people intend to subscribe.

Memorial Day Celebration

Carol will call and ask Sean about Memorial Day celebration.

Update on Dummer's Beach assessment

Mike has been back to take some pictures and Richard has sent another email to Casey and Gail that we need the spreadsheet.

Adjourned 7 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Cochran