

Board of Selectmen Meeting
August 6, 2019
7:00 PM Town Hall

Present: Matthew Riiska, Sandy Evans and Paul Madore
Others: Wylie Wood

Public Comments: None

Minutes: June 4, 2019

MOTION S. Evans to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting as presented. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

Public Works Supervisor Position

- M. Riiska would like to hire a public works supervisor by October, prior to the snow falling. The Board of Finance thought it would be a good idea to get through the Summer and save some money. M. Riiska has been performing the PW Supervisor duties and everyone was in agreement that it has been working out very well. We will be advertising for a working supervisor with a CDL license to plow and tow. The job description is being worked on and will be ready for September's meeting. The job will have a probationary period. Discussion held.

Blight Ordinance

- Numerous residents have complained to Mike Halloran, Zoning Enforcement Officer, about two properties in town with unregistered vehicles and blighted conditions. The pros and cons of instituting and enforcing a blight ordinance and/or a motor vehicle ordinance were discussed. M. Riiska shared some blight ordinance samples from other towns but will solicit more information at the next NHCOG meeting.

Selectman's Report

- Senior Bus – M. Riiska has applied for a 5310 Grant from the State of CT DOT for a bus. In the meantime, he has solicited various local foundations and received \$25,000. We are currently waiting to hear from an organization called "Matthew's Buses" (who has the State contract) about a 2015 bus that may be available soon (off lease). This bus has 52,000 miles and will cost \$24,500. Once the bus is available M. Riiska and public works mechanic Howard Crunden will go take a good look at it. This year's budget includes \$20,050 for bus expenses.
- A New pickup truck is on order through Litchfield Ford and should be ready by early September. This Ford F350 includes a plow and a sander at a cost of \$42,000.
- M. Riiska had a visit from two Norfolk residents wishing to discuss a dog park. Our insurance carrier (CIRMA) is ok with this idea and there would be no change to our premium. A few concerns are that there is no appropriate town property and the cost of continued maintenance.

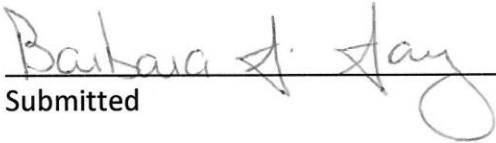
- EV Charging Station has been installed at the back of the Town Hall. M. Riiska is working with a company called Greenlots to set up the billing service.
- M. Riiska reported that some of the town's Eversource bills have increased dramatically because of a third party contractor, Agera Energy (through Sack Energy Corp), that we are under contract with until December 2020.
- M. Riiska is working on the State of Connecticut 70/30 grant paperwork to get some reimbursement for the replacement of the boiler and underground tank at Botelle School. He is also trying to get quotes to switch over to propane. Discussion held on oil vs. propane.
- Public Works Trucks – Currently four out of the six plow trucks have had their annual inspection by JW Tractor Repair in Goshen. The two newest trucks have not gone in yet. Three of the four trucks have been sent out to be sandblasted and repainted by Logan Steel in Meriden. The public works employees will lubri-seal all the trucks. Truck maintenance discussed. The plan is to have all the trucks ready for winter by Labor Day. Going forward we will not delay truck maintenance.
- Paving – Progressive Paving will be paving Schoolhouse Road, part of Parker Hill Road, Grant Street, Doolittle Road (near Shantry), Mountain Road, part of Loon Meadow and a section of Aetna Lane. In September we should be chip sealing Lover's Lane, Mountain Road (from Golf Drive to the end of the pavement) and Winchester Road. Northeast Crack Sealing will be starting on Thursday morning sealing lower Ashpohtag, Blackberry, Sunset Ridge Road and Valley View.
- Catch basins – The five catch basins on Station Place and John Curtiss Road will be replaced. Repairs to the two roads will also be done. Hopefully prior to winter.
- M. Riiska spoke to Attorney Michael Sconyers about drawing up a waiver in order for the Town of Norfolk to continue to plow Meadowbrook Senior Housing. CIRMA, our insurance carrier, has requested a waiver be drawn up if we continue to plow. Discussion held regarding the use of town employees and equipment to continue this practice.
- River Place Bridge & Mountain Road Bridge – Due to lack of funds in the State of Connecticut and the federal government the State has not begun to work on these projects. The engineering money for both projects is in the Town budget so we will continue, so as not to create any delays. The engineering work should be good for two years. Once the engineering work is complete we will go out for bids.
- Route 44 Retaining Wall (just beyond Memorial Green to Old Colony Road)– The State of Connecticut does not anticipate starting the project until 2022. The State will have an open town meeting prior to starting. M. Riiska recommended that the State meet with the closest neighbors first and separately. This will be a \$20,000,000 project.


Selectman's Report (cont'd)

- M. Riiska met with Jenny Byers from the Doolittle Lake Association. They have hired a limnologist for Doolittle Lake because they are concerned about road salt runoff into a feeder pond that goes to the lake. M. Riiska explained to her that there are areas in Norfolk near these brooks and ponds that freeze quicker and require more attention due to the school bus routes. He has talked with the public works employees regarding calibrating the trucks to distribute less salt.

2/3 Vote: None

MOTION M. Riiska to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.


Submitted


Approved