

Sutton Select Board Meeting
November 30,2017

Tim called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

Attending: Dusty May; Ross Stevens, Northwoods Stewardship; Darlene Ahrens from Planning Board and resident; Gwen Kinney as resident; Lucien Belanger; Dan Jackson; Gail Weed; Pam Fecteau, Larry Smith, Vicky Abare from VLCT
Mary Gray; Joe Solinsky; Tim Simpson; Scott Spencer arrived at 7:30PM

Additions/deletions: Northwood Stewardship Center; Ross Stevens and Dusty May; Planning Commission; Darlene Ahrens; School/Town agreements pump house agreement Celeste Girrell.

Joe made a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2017. Tim seconded motion. All voted in the affirmative.

Joe made a motion to approve the special personal meeting minutes of October 30, 2017. Tim seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

Joe noted that the balance in the check book as of November 30, 2017 is \$122,331.51
Joe made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Tim Seconded. Discussion about updated reserve funds. Gail updated the board with a new copy of the treasurer's report. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative.

Delinquent tax report was handed out.

Elizabeth Hubbard, NEKWMD update: They are advising us that per Trigon Plastics black plastic containers will no longer be accepted at recycling bins. The 2018 budget was also passed out for NEKWMD.

Dusty May and Ross Stevens; Northwood Stewardship: Updated the board about the Rec Trails Grant; The select board approved the pre-application for filing. They are waiting to carry on with the final application. They want to apply for it in the municipality name, and the Northwoods would be working as sub-contractors to work on the Wheeler Mountain Trail. This would be as a pass-through. They are applying for \$14,000.00 and Northwoods would do the 20% match. They have always requested \$250.00 appropriation from Sutton and the same would be requested for 2018

Larry Smith, VLCT: Insurances are due to expire on January 1, 2018 with the VLCT the Non-profit Risk Management company. They are governed by Board of Directors comprised of Municipalities. VLCT only cover municipalities. We have been with them long enough, that we will start getting contribution credits which will come off your premiums. Sutton has not taken advantage of any of the Grant or Scholarship programs. The Grant program is set at \$200,000.00 that can be applied for, but they go quickly so the sooner you get a request in your

chances are better of utilizing the grant. This can be used to purchase safety equipment for instance. Building alarms, update the electricity are examples. The towns apply for the grant to pay 40% of what the cost is up to \$2,500.00. Updating the GFI's in the building would have been a grant that we could have used. Two times a year the grant money is awarded, but again, it goes fast so get it in early. As a side not, Fire Department turn out gear is also an example.

The scholarship program is under-utilized by all. Sending someone to OSHA training could be used up to \$500.00. This applies to Road or Office Employees. If you want to bring someone in to house train would also qualify, they would ask other agencies from around the area to partake in this training also. For tree safety they would pay up to \$2500.00 if you bring him in house. They offer the drug testing as part of their policy. If we had that done outside, there would be a cost to this. VLCT- advocacy; we pay \$2500.00 to be part of this, this is not part of the risk management. Municipalities EPL Assistance program; As a board member if you reprimand someone or let someone go, we would get free legal advice on how to let an employee go. VLCT dues helps with the legal fees. The hourly rate is usually half of what we would pay a town attorney. Next year's policy cost would be \$29,000.00, it is up about \$1,000.00 but it is not considering the contribution credits, so it will be lowered some. Larry was asked if he could find out how much we used VLCT advocacy, so we can compare the \$2,500.00 fees we pay. We were also informed that that also includes the advocate at legislature for municipalities. They also advised that even if we do not go with the risk management portion of the insurance, we should keep the advocacy portion.

Darlene Ahrens: Grange Hall: The estimate of \$150,000 includes moving the grange hall and making it ADA compliant and landscaping; foundation and basement. This does not include replacing windows or electrical. Apply for a grant up to \$50,000. And if they got the grant that would decrease the town cost to \$100,000. Paul wants a letter for the grant that the selectmen are committed to bring this before the town for a vote at the next town meeting. They need this letter to apply for the grant. Neighbors need to be notified of what is happening with the grange. The parking lot would be the handicap entrance. Also, examples what will the building will be used for, which will also be in the letter for the grant. Celeste would like to maybe use the grange for child care before school or after school. The select board will want to hold their meeting at the grange/community center.

Joe made a motion to send a letter to Paul Brouha stating we intend to move forward with the potential grange hall move. Tim seconded. Motion Passed

Darlene Ahrens and Gwen Kinney wrote a letter to the select board about the permitting process for Evergreen Forrest Products on Calendar Brook Road and how the permit process was not followed. They are not contesting the permit itself as the time frame for resident input has past, however they are contesting the process as it denied them their right as impacted neighbors to be properly informed of what is happening and this was not followed.

Celeste said that if the school wants to use the grange they will contact the town and that should be the end to any confusion.

The old well house agreement, Celeste will write a letter of understanding for that for the select board and school board to sign.

Personnel policy: Joe made a motion to adopt the personnel policy with clauses for sexual harassment and vacation carry over of 5 days and include the day after Thanksgiving instead of Veteran's day. Tim seconded. Motion Passed

Correspondence was read.

Warrants and checks were signed.

Joe motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tim seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

Mary Gray
Clerk