

Shutesbury Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes February 25, 2014

Members present: Chairwoman Elaine Puleo and members Al Springer and April Stein.

Members Absent: None.

Remote participation: None.

Staff present: Town Administrator Rebecca Torres, Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge.

Press present: None.

Chairman Puleo opened the meeting at 6:33 P.M. at the Shutesbury Town Hall.

Appointments

1. Pole Hearing for National Grid

- At 6:35 PM Chairman Puleo opened a Public Hearing as requested by NATIONAL GRID for permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across Cushman Road to install SO Guying pole 14-84 to hold conductor from pole 14 to house #120.
- No one was present from National Grid and no one was present from the neighborhood.
- Hearing no comments or objections, the hearing was closed at 6:36 PM.

Selectmen unanimously voted to adopt the corresponding order for pole and wire locations.

2. Sergeant and Officer in Charge Wendy Masiuk in the absence of Police Chief Harding:

- Ticketing of parked cars on Montague and Carver Road West:
 - a. The DCR is not plowing their newly created parking areas associated with the trails off of Montague and Carver Road West, so people are parking on the roads instead.
 - b. Police Department personnel are doing the best they can to balance safety hazards and complaints of cars blocking passage on the roads, with education of hikers/skiers who have parked in such a way as to make passage of emergency vehicles through the areas unsafe.
 - c. Officers have had to issue some citations.
 - d. Some people in receipt of citations have paid their fines, some tickets are being appealed.
 - e. We have to address the complaints coming in.
 - f. Parked cars on other roads have also been ticketed. Some people are unhappy.
 - g. Officers are waiting when they can, to give verbal warnings.
- No accidents to report: During the bigger storms, people were heeding warnings and staying home. There are signs of some people going off the roads into snow banks.
- Review of staffing.

3. Executive Session: At 7 PM a motion was made and seconded to enter into executive session for reason number 3: to discuss strategy with respect to litigation because an open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, and to re-open in public session following the executive session: Springer: aye, Stein: aye, Puleo: aye. At 8:19 PM the Board of Selectmen resumed open meeting.

Topics

1. Knotweed Event Planning: Will be addressed at a later meeting.

2. Broadband Committee Update:

- Becky has about 12 people who have indicated interest in joining the Broadband Committee
- Becky will set up a first meeting for all interested people in the beginning of March to profile people's interest and skills, and let people express their images for the Committee and Becky will bring that information to the Select Board.

- No date was set for when people should express their interest by, but the beginning of March seems like an adequate amount of time.
 - Al Springer sat with Greg Caulton at the Shutesbury Athletic Club meeting and feels that Greg could bring a balanced view to the Committee. Becky will communicate with Greg.
 - Becky will communicate with all people who have expressed an interest in the Committee.
3. **WiredWest Wendell Select Board Meeting Review:** Elaine invited Al Springer to report on a meeting concerning WiredWest that he and Town Administrator Torres attended:
- WiredWest has not made up their mind, might charge by the number of houses in town, population or miles of roads.
 - Hoping that it will be funded with money coming in.
 - Need 40% sign-up to work.
 - 2/3 vote once, sign for the loan and that's it.
 - After 6 months they would have it. Part of the build-out may begin.
 - The faster you get people to sign-up the sooner they will have it.

Select Board Action Items

1. **Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the minutes of February 11, 2014 as written.**
2. **Selectmen signed payroll warrants totaling \$90,593.88.**
3. **Selectmen signed vendor warrants totaling \$135,154.99.**
4. **Selectmen unanimously voted to approve use of the Town Hall for a series of Library programs.**
5. ASNE (Authorized Services of New England) generator contract renewal:
 - a. Becky reported that she and Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Walter Tibbetts have been pleased with the service provided by ASNE in the past year and recommend that the Selectmen renew the contract for the coming year.

Selectmen unanimously voted to sign a new contract with ASNE Agreement Number: CNR-01471-Q9T7N0 effective March 1, 2014 to maintain and service the itemized generators at the Shutesbury School, Town Hall and Fire Station in the amount of \$1,561.50 per year for 1 year.

Topics the Chairman Could Not Reasonably Have Anticipated

1. The Massachusetts School Building Assistance forms have not gone in:
 - Due to snow, all signatures were not back by the Monday morning deadline for the accelerated application, so the deadline was missed.
 - Advice was given to instead apply for the regular assistance program, but that is a 3-year effort.
 - The application for the accelerated program could be re-worked and submitted next year for a shorter length of wait time.
 - In the meantime, Becky will go out to bid to see what total costs would be as the application feasibility study alone could cost \$40,000 to \$50,000. The application costs could be too high to warrant application if it turns out to be a \$100,000 project.
2. Elaine will craft a quick letter to Jeff Lacy this week thanking him for his input. Elaine has talked with others who agree with Al's perspective that people wouldn't come to a meeting.
 - Al adds that some people will like what you do and some won't, and that's life.
3. On Saturday March 1 there will be an 8 AM meeting of the group of people who are meeting with Amherst Regional School finance officials to discuss regional school capital expenses. At 9 to 10:30 AM there will be the 4-town meeting, and at 10:30 AM the Regional School District Planning Board will meet. Elaine commented on some of the information she has learned by participating in the capital planning group:
 - The MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) has a big science lab program.

- Superintendent Maria Geryk stated there is no way the middle school will be closing for at least 10 years.
 - There are a lot of tensions in the regional school system.
4. Elaine is going to a task force meeting concerning heroin addiction in Franklin County tomorrow.
 5. Discussion of the local economy included:
 - It's as good as it is in this area due to the higher education institutions and that our small town does not have the responsibility for many problems that arise in the larger municipalities.
 - State and local officials are now classifying drug addiction as a medical condition in need of treatment.
 - The drug problem has mushroomed and we're way behind other countries in dealing with it.
 - Other countries are ahead of the United States with safe havens.
 - The problem is that money is involved. Bleed it of the money and the problems would disappear.
 6. Reference to letter from Department of Transportation regarding use of handicap parking abuse and use of handicap placards.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting:

1. Draft February 11, 2014 Select Board meeting minutes.
2. Notice of public hearing for petition for pole and wire locations at Cushman Road.
3. List of library programs for which use of town hall space is requested.
4. Proposed ASNE Service and Maintenance Agreement.
5. Town of Shutesbury Expense Report from 07/01/2013 to 02/18/2014.

The Select Board **adjourned at 8:54 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge
Administrative Secretary