

Town of Thorndike

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes- 10.16.2019

Attendees: R Nelson, J Ard, M Mayer, W Trafton, M Berry, R Stevenson, M Sanborn, B Parsons, R Cunningham & S Bristol.

Minutes: R Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes as written, M Mayer seconded; motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Fire Department:

- **Old**

Open House: 10/12/2019: 6-8 families participated

Electrical quotes: M Mayer still working on this, review Efficiency Maine Grants to see what is available.

- **New**

Checking with Fire Tech and Safety on the SVA bottle

R Cunningham advised that new carbon ones are \$850 each; Fire Department will see how many are still good. Discussion on how many are still good and what would be considered obsolete.

J Ard asked about a radio in one of the trucks shorting out. Fire Chief (FC) Ron Stevenson advised that it had been rewired.

Unity Fire Chief Blaine Parsons: wanted to address with the Selectmen in regards to the return, or purchase of the gear, that Ron Stevenson was using that belongs to the Town of Unity; specifically; turnout gear and a pager. Initial request were sent around July 8, 2019. The turnout gear has been returned; but not the pager. FC R Stevenson wants to remain on the Unity Volunteer Fire Department and FC Blaine Parsons advised that due to insurance purposes, one cannot be on two fire departments. FC R Stevenson has not resigned from the Unity Volunteer Fire Department. (FC R Stevenson, during this part of the meeting, returned the pager to FC Blaine Parsons.)

FC Blaine Parson also cited a safety concern due to the recent propane scare at the Mount View School. Unity is not on the list for Thorndike and Mount View with Waldo Comm. FC Blaine Parsons wanted to confirm if they are still to be on the list; advised that Unity Volunteer Fire Department is still looking to help in any way that they can. J Ard advised that they (the Town of Thorndike and Selectmen) do not want Unity off of the list with Waldo Comm.

FC B Parson reiterated that Unity is not on the list currently.

J Ard asked what needs to be done to modify the list. The Fire Chief can contact Waldo Comm to update the list. FC R Stevenson advised that the list at Waldo Comm has a dispatch list based on the priority for Mount View School. In this case of propane; Unity is not on that dispatch list but would be for other situations, for example involving fire. FC R Stevenson advised that there had been a change on Waldo Comm for Mount View School that if no one is available for Thorndike Fire Department; then to call mutual aid.

Three months ago FC R Stevenson got the list from Waldo Comm and he has been working on this list.

FC Blaine Parsons advised that he wants to have a good working relation with the Town of Thorndike Fire Department. FC Blaine Parsons advised that Ron has a lot of experience and will make the Town of Thorndike a great fire chief. At the end of the day the fire departments are just looking out for the community.

J Ard asked FC R Stevenson if there is any equipment that he needs?

FC R Stevenson advised that he has pants and jackets but looking to have Fire Tech and Safety to review.

M Mayer and FC R Stevenson advised that they are reviewing to see what grants are available for new gear.

R Nelson: question for FC R Stevenson regarding the recent propane leak up to the Mount View School complex. R Nelson asked to have investigated and a requested a copy of the full report on the event. R Nelson wanted to know who, when, where and how?

Per R Nelson, the circumstances on the event is that a teacher went into the classroom and smelt the propane; the teacher then headed to the main office and the maintenance knew what it was but the teacher still proceeded to the main office. The Principle of the School proceeded to evacuate the school.

The School maintenance knew what the problem was & had it taken care of. Per R Nelson; the school needs to learn from this incident.

M Berry asked if the Thorndike Fire Department is trained to deal with propane. FC R Stevenson advised that he is trained.

F C R Stevenson advised that he has a \$30 donation from the 10/12/2019 Open House. J Ard made motion to accept the donation and to have the \$30 go toward operational expensed of the fire department; M Mayer seconded. Motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Town Office:

- Old

Electrical quotes: M Mayer working on quoting together with the Fire Department.

MRC Ballot: looking for nominations to be on the MRC Board: the Selectmen opted to pass on nominations.

- New

Pellets from silo: J Ard noted that the pellets were damaged that were in the silo so they was donated to Northern Solstice Alpaca Farm for stall bedding. R Nelson made a motion of the approval of the pellets donated at no cost to the Northern Solstice Alpaca Farm, J Ard seconded. Motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Maine Revenue Services -2019 Municipal Valuation Return: R Nelson made a motion to sign the Maine Revenue Services -2019 Municipal Valuation Return; J Ard seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Abatement: Chris Higgins: property off of Files Hill Road; taxed twice for in error.

FY2018 \$748.32 & FY2019 \$763.23; J Ard made a motion to approve the abatements; R Nelson seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

J Ard reviewed the Tweedie property, that was approved to be purchased from the 8/19/2019 Special Town Meeting, that this property is not going to work due to the time frame of needing to get a salt and sand pile up in time before the snow flies. R Nelson advised that Downeast Credit Union is also looking for the Town of Thorndike to survey out the portion of property that the town was looking to buy. This is time consuming and more money. Also Downeast Credit Union stated that they will review the survey and then decide; it is not guaranteed that they will approve the partial mortgage waiver. J Ard advised that there is wetland, also, on the Tweedie property. Soil and Water Conservation have requested to have a delineation completed by the Town of Thorndike for this as well which is at an additional cost.

J Ard advised that another issue is that it is on a State Road; approval for an entrance permit and to take a chance of a delayed response from the State of Maine for approval and now having almost \$1000 into it; they Town does not have time to proceed this way.

It was asked if the property, proposed by Greg McMorrow, if it comes out onto the Hamm Road? J Ard and R Nelson advised that it does. R Nelson advised that the exit and entrance off of the Hamm Road is too much of a drop off; 3 ft drop. The land would need to be graded and it would be a slanting slope. R Nelson advised that you would have to cross all of the open land of the State of Maine property and it would be hard for a salt truck for delivery to drive on the Hamm Road.

R Nelson advised that the paving companies are closing down the beginning of November.

Special Town Meeting: J Ard made a motion to hold a Special Town Meeting on 10/23/2019 at 7pm here at the Thorndike Town Office, M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Warrant signed to post the articles for the Special Town meeting for 10/23/2019

Discussion on town owned property on the Reid Road; whether or not a minimum bid should be placed on it. R Nelson advised that it is at the discretion of the Selectmen to accept and reject any and all bids.

R Nelson advised that he thinks there is an easement to the property. He would like time to research it. It is believed that the property was taken by foreclosure by the town back in 1949.

Public Hearing: J Ard made a motion to have a public hearing on 11/4/2019 at 6:30pm at the Thorndike Town Office, for a non-binding straw poll to determine what ordinances or regulations the town should consider or adopt concerning the various uses of cannabis in the town of Thorndike; M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Notice will be posted of the Public Hearing and also that the Selectmen will be in attendance.

R Nelson: discussion on the Cates Road Subdivision. The State of Maine, in working on approving current driveway permits has noted that 2 lots will need to share a driveway. It states on the subdivision plan that entrances must be approved and meet state specs.

Other:

J Ard wanted the minutes to reflect the sincerely apologies by the Selectmen not being able to attend the Thorndike Trailblazer's ATV Club Landowner dinner. J Ard wanted to commend the club for all the great work they are doing.

Fire Department: snow removal: M Mayer to review with Ron.

R Nelson made a motion to sign the following warrants; J Ard seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Warrants:

A/P Warrant from 02/06/2019 : \$55,286.30

Current Warrant: \$16,526.88

Payroll Warrant: \$1944.85

R Nelson made a motion to adjourn; M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm