

Arrowsic Selectmen's Meeting

September 23, 2013

Present: Sukey Heard, Bill Savedoff, Michele Gaillard, Mary McDonald

Treasurer's Report and Warrant:

Warrant #6 (\$122,909.34) was reviewed, approved, and signed. Mary asked that a deputy treasurer be appointed to fill in for her in the event that personal issues make her unavailable to perform the duties for any period of time. The Selectmen discussed several candidates and will revisit the issue at the next meeting.

Fire Department Update:

The Fire Department has been receiving numerous notifications lately regarding State and federal regulations and requirements to which they are asked to conform. As a small volunteer department, the Fire Chief is concerned that we have neither the budget nor the manpower to comply. He has asked the Selectmen to contact MMA to perform an inspection of our facilities so that we can know for sure where we should be concentrating our efforts. Sukey will contact them for an appointment.

West Bath/RSU1 Lawsuit:

The Selectmen went into executive session at 6:55 pm to receive an update on the status of the lawsuit based on Bill's communication with Rufus Brown, the Town's attorney in the matter. The open meeting resumed at 7:05 pm.

Town Registrar of Voters:

Due to the closeness of the upcoming election in November, the decision was made to retain Jennifer Hall as the registrar until after the election, because of her experience and availability. The Selectmen will appoint the new registrar afterwards based on the interviews already held.

Education:

Bill has been meeting regularly with the education group. At their next meeting they hope to nail down an agreement of committee responsibilities, with a full proposal for the Selectmen in January. They hope to start operating as a provisional committee in February or March. We should be on the hunt for committee members and someone to act as committee chair.

We had received a letter from Superintendent Manuel in response to our request for a more collaborative process to determine annual student counts. The letter answered several queries we had made regarding the accuracy of counts previously attributed to the Town. Dr. Manuel indicated that it was not possible to change numbers already submitted to the State, even if wrong. Moving forward, he has developed a process for the numbers to be released to the RSU1 towns with enough time to vet and make changes. We appreciate his willingness to work with us on these new procedures but also plan to contact our State representatives to keep them up to date and determine if they can be helpful to us. Bill will draft a reply to the letter to the superintendent.

Arrowsic Information Stream:

We are still trying to determine the optimum ways to disseminate Town information and receive feedback from residents. Bill has written a letter that will survey residents on their methods of choice. It is our intent to mail to as wide a list of property owners/residents as possible. The Selectmen discussed a timetable to produce and mail the letters.

Winter Shoveling:

The Selectmen voted to accept a proposal from Mark Jorgensen to shovel town properties this winter for \$35 per visit.

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee Needs:

It has come to our attention that we do not have a current contract with RC Rogers for trash and recycling collection. We will ask the committee to review the old contract to see if it is adequate for our needs, and we will review Georgetown's contract to make sure we have included all relevant information.

The Recycling Committee has lost two members, Liz Ware and Julia Kahrl, and John Hinds has asked to be released from his duties as chair of the committee. The Selectmen discussed the difficulties in attracting new members to Town committees. We will ask the remaining members to attend the October 28 meeting to help us determine if the committee responsibilities can be handled with fewer people.

Assessing:

Our assessing agent has indicated that they will be in town in early October to do the preliminary work (recording changes to buildings, new construction, property splits in Trio) to running the tax commitment.

Library History Series:

Peter Goodwin is looking for someone to make the Arrowsic presentation for the annual winter history series at the library. Sukey suggested that we solicit participation with a message on the Google group.

Town Properties Needs Assessment:

The Selectmen discussed the need for both a long-term vision and short-term plans for the use and maintenance of Town properties. The Town owns several pieces of property, including the Town Hall, Little Barn, and the Fire Station, which all need regular upkeep, repairs and maintenance. Since we annually set aside a budgeted amount for properties maintenance, it would be helpful to have a ranked list of projects to tackle rather than just reacting to emergencies as they arise. The Selectmen will schedule a work session in December dedicated to looking at these issues in detail.

Route 127 Speed:

Sukey received [an email reply from](#) Dave Allen at MDOT regarding our request that the State consider reducing the speed limit on Route 127 in the vicinity of the town center and the

Old Stage Road/Whitmore's Landing intersection. Mr. Allen indicated that he had reviewed the situation, and he will be sending us a letter rejecting our request.

Minutes:

Minutes for 9/9/13 were approved. Sukey will send to Paul Kalkstein to post on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Gaillard