

Arrowsic Selectmen's Meeting

September 9, 2015

Present: Sukey Heard, Michele Gaillard, Bill Savedoff, Mary McDonald, Gretchen MacLeod, Phine Ewing, Nancy Brown Stump, Malcolm Persen, Michael Kreindler, Art Dresser, Karen Mignone, Jim Flannery, Jack Witham

Town Clerk Vacancy:

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm. Gretchen MacLeod was present to express an interest in the position and ask questions about the job. She had a copy of the job description and had spoken at length with Linda Warner and Liz Rollins. Gretchen described why she was interested in the job. The Selectmen each indicated the responsibilities and requirements that were not included in the job description like teamwork, confidentiality and friendliness. Gretchen asked for an estimate of the average number of hours per week. She indicated some scheduling modifications that would be important to her. The Selectmen discussed the formal training required: election training, on-line training, and day-long sessions sponsored by MMA.

The Selectmen suggested that Gretchen could be appointed as Deputy Town Clerk to work alongside Linda until after the November election, then appointed to fill out the remainder of Linda's term. In June, her name would be on the warrant at Town Meeting. Nancy Brown Stump expressed her wish that a special town meeting be called to allow the town's people to make the decision. She said that there has been a trend towards appointing officials mid-term, which takes the levers of power away from voters and shortcuts the democratic process. The Selectmen indicated that they would discuss her suggestion at an upcoming meeting.

Arrowsic Fire Department Long Term Plan Committee:

The committee presented an interim update on their work so far to develop a long-term plan for the fire department. They have conducted 7 working sessions to date. They reviewed existing AFD facilities and vehicles. They interviewed stakeholders, including each Selectman, the town historian, and fire chiefs from Arrowsic, Bath and Georgetown. They assembled a database of fire department information as reported in town reports from 1945 to the present. They did research using several fire-fighting-related information sources, local and regional newspapers, and fire-fighting equipment websites.

The committee presented several preliminary observations:

- their interviews with the chiefs indicated that AFD is meeting the expectations of our mutual aid partners,
- their belief that without a clear mission statement that includes the expectations of the town, it is difficult to determine parameters for equipment and manpower,
- they believe that any discussion of equipment purchases needs to take into consideration the level of active volunteer participation so that there is an appropriate balance between equipment and manpower,
- in order to address citizen's questions about the cost of contracting out fire protection services to a town with a professional force, they asked that the Selectmen solicit a quote from Bath.

The committee anticipates presenting a report to the Selectmen in the spring with a range of alternative options.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Gaillard