

Select Board Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2024

Selectman Norman Beckwith called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Calling of the roll:

Selectmen: Norman Beckwith, David Thorp, Bill Nye

Secretary: Carolyn Nye

Guest(s): Jim Touloupalis

Norman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 3, 2024, as written. Bill seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Norman wanted to know what the selectboard wanted to do with putting an article in the town warrant this year regarding the fire protection services. Town residents approached Norman asking him to change a previous article voted on and passed at a previous Annual Town Meeting. They are not happy with the Monson Fire Department, and they want to change an article to reflect the selectboard should not be the only ones to vote who to contract with when it comes to a 3-year contract. The residents would like to take part in the voting process.

David and Bill both agreed that they would like the resident(s) to come to a select board meeting and have a written article to present to the selectboard not a verbal one given to a board member to pass on.

There was a lengthy discussion with the select board members discussing an amount of \$18,000.00 that select board member Norman got the amount verbally by the Monson Town Manager and secretary when he had seen them on Friday April 12th, 2024.

Vera had given the selectboard members and Carolyn a revised budget report for the April 17, 2024, select board meeting. Carolyn noticed an amount highlighted under fire protection services for \$18,000.00. Carolyn asked Vera where that amount came from because at the budget meeting there was no amount yet. Vera explained she had produced that amount just to fill the space. David questioned Norman during the meeting as to how the \$18,000.00 was in the budget when there was no final figure yet. Norman said he gave that amount to Vera to put into the budget.

David does not agree with Norman getting a verbal amount from Monson. David said he has been asking for months to set up a meeting with the Shirley select board and the Town of Monson Select Board and the Fire Chief Ryan to discuss the fire protection services price for the fiscal year July 1st, 2024, through June 30th, 2025. David went on to explain the select board cannot enter a contract with anybody without a set price that has been approved by all parties.

Norman said that he had spoken to the Greenville Fire Chief Sawyer between April 11th and April 16th and asked if they were interested in giving the Town of Shirley a price for fire protection services and Fire Chief Sawyer asked how soon the Town of Shirley needed it and Norman told him as soon as possible.

David explained to Norman why he was not interested this year in contracting with Greenville when last year they mailed to the town office a bill for \$24,000.00 for twenty-four calls when Shirley was still under a current contract for \$12,600.00. Then after meeting with the Town Manager and the Greenville Fire Department they changed it to \$19,600.00.

Norman then asked if it was a waste of his time going and speaking to Sawyer. David and Bill both said they were good at continuing with the Monson Fire Department for fire protection services.

Norman suggested one of the select board members make a motion to go with the Monson Fire Department. Bill made a motion to stay with the Monson Fire Department with a 3-year contract. David seconded. Motion carried two votes in favor and one abstention.

Norman spoke with Peggy from the Planning Board, and she has spoken to the State of Maine and for a full Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Shirley it will cost \$20,135.00. Peggy said she is still investigating the cost.

Norman will ask Peggy about getting an article to put in the warrant to change the wording in the Town Ordinance for Tax Acquired Property. David suggested repealing the ordinance and just go by the State of Maine Law for Tax Acquired Property.

David made a motion to nominate Scott Phillips to become a member of the Planning Board. Bill seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim asked does a resident need to live in Shirley to become a planning board member. Norman and David both answered yes.

Norman told the selectboard members that Vera went to see the Auditor and the amount of \$343,000.00 asked about during the budget meeting was in the account.

Norman will be asking Matt to use his grater to fix the North Rd and the Blanchard Rd. and will also ask him if it is all right if the town pays him in July.

Bill suggested to the select board members that they need to stick with the jobs in the bid package from Pike and advised them against doing any extra road work. He explained further that the town only voted on accessing the future roads account to pay

for road work and repairing on the Upper Shirley Corner Road and the Route 15 intersection on the Lower Shirley Corner Road at the Town Meeting on June 19, 2024.

Norman responded with we had permission to take the money from future roads to do tarring on the roads and the driveway is in the bid.

Norman went on to say we need to decide how we are going to fix the culverts. I have talked to several people and the only one I talked to made sense and explained to go about fifty feet on each side of the culvert, dig it up and keep the consistency of the dirt in the whole one hundred feet to keep them from moving.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Submitted by,
Carolyn Nye