

Minutes

Board of Selectmen – Town of Wales, Massachusetts

Aug 10, 2016

7:00 PM - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Milanese with Vice Chair Jeff Vannais and Clerk Ed Boyce in attendance.

Boyce moved to change order of agenda and consider **“temporary help.”** 2nd Vannais

Discussion: Boyce explained that he wanted to consider this item because Mrs. Decoteau was in attendance and could begin taking minutes at this meeting if her offer of volunteer recording was accepted. Vote: UNANIMOUS

Boyce moved to accept the offer of volunteer recording help. 2nd Vannais

Discussion: Boyce positively supported having the minutes being recorded by Mrs. Decoteau. Vannais added his support and noted his personal and professional knowledge of her administrative abilities. Milanese voiced concern about having too many people involved with the administrative duties of the town. He stated that he was not personally concerned with Mrs. Decoteau but stressed the necessity for professionalism and confidentiality. Decoteau cited her long standing experience with town government on Martha’s Vineyard and said she was only offering to help the town of Wales during this interim time. The offer is being made on a voluntary basis until September 10th when hopefully a new executive secretary will be hired. Vote: UNANIMOUS

7:10 Pole Hearing

Milanese read the hearing notice (attach 1) into record and introduced Mandy from National Grid to speak on the matter. Ms reported that they received a complaint from the people at 49 Union Road regarding a pole and tree issue in their vicinity. National Grid proposed placing a pole approximately 300’ from the intersection of Cordially Colony and Union Road in the proximity of 47 Union Road on the east side of the road. Abutters attending were Brian Granger, 45 Union Road and Thomas and Kathy Bernard, 47 Union Road. All the abutters expressed concern about the location of the new pole. Granger said most of the poles are on the west side of the road but there is a support pole on his property which impedes his lawn cutting. Ms stated that there are regulations regarding the placement of poles and they had not been able to contact all of the abutters. She suggested a site review be scheduled with all the abutters be accomplished and that this matter be tabled until after that time.

Vannais moved to continue until Sep 6 meeting at 7:00 PM. 2nd Boyce Vote: UNANIMOUS

Mr. Milanese and Transfer Station director, Richard Silva noted that they had each put paper bid into the folder for tonight's consideration.

7:55 Bid Opening for surplus town equipment

Boyce moved, in lieu of this information, that Vice chair Vannais continue to lead the proceedings and that Milanese remove himself. 2nd Milanese but he agreed to relinquish the chair position but remained seated at the table. Vote: UNANIMOUS

Vannais instructed Boyce, as clerk to open the bids however a discussion followed about the posting of the bids. Milanese said several people had not seen the posting. It was in the newspaper but there were questions as to whether it was properly posted in three places. Mr. Silva noted that he usually bids but was unaware until tonight that this auction was taking place. Vannais received a text which said that the posting noted that bids would not be accepted after Thursday, Aug 4 @ 3 PM, in which case neither of the bids received tonight were eligible.

Boyce moved to table the opening of the bids until they could check with the town clerk to be sure the posting was properly done. Vannais offered to call the town clerk and 2nd the motion. Vote: UNANIMOUS

MAIL: A thank you note was read from Merle Hansel. She was awarded the oldest citizen's cane by Mr. Boyce and Senior Coordinator at her 95th Birthday celebration

OLD BUSINESS: Temporary help was briefly explained. Milanese stated that Kaye Worth had agreed to fill in at the office and Bette Decoteau was going to be doing minutes. This arrangement will be on a voluntary basis and only until Sep 10th.

Boyce moved to accept the offer of volunteer help. 2nd Vannais Vote: UNANIMOUS

Transfer station Mr. Silva was invited to the table for some preliminary discussion regarding discrepancy compliance. Vannais noted an attached copy of minutes regarding the chipping of brush. Silva reported that Wasiluk declined the offer to chip the brush as it was too much for them to handle. His recommendation was Rocky Mountain in Wilbraham. They will remove the brush and chip it in their facility for a cost of \$18 per yard or \$780 per load. It is estimated to be not more than two loads. The money would be taken out of the transfer station's budget. Additional fees for leaving brush at the transfer station was briefly discussed but to no conclusion.

Boyce moved to hire Rocky Mountain 2nd Milanese Vote: UNANIMOUS

Mr Silva also noted that the Town of Wales is a state recognized Compost Facility which enables us to have some compost on site. Milanese requested a copy of that authorization be filed in the town office for future edification. Silva agreed to furnish that information to the acting executive secretary.

Administrative Consent Order and Notice of Noncompliance, dtd 8/5/16

Vannais moved to sign the order and return before the Aug 23rd deadline. 2nd Milanese

Discussion: Vannais explained the changes in the new order including a reduction of the daily fine penalty to \$500. He said that he had been in discussion with Silva about a third part inspector to keep the town apprised of new and changing state regulations so that this type of noncompliance would be a thing of the past. Boyce was concerned about the number of violations and didn't feel they were all warranted. Vannais reiterate that the town inadvertently broke the law and are making big strides to rectify the situation. Silva said that he spoke with a Mark Popham who is a third party inspector and his rates were very reasonable. It was estimated that if the town hired him their costs should be under \$400 per year. Popham indicated to Silva that the state was initiating new laws all the time and many towns were in the same situation as Wales. Boyce voiced concern about penalties and the town's ability to contest findings. He suggested asking for more time to sign the order and Milanese reminded him that they had already been turned down on an extension. Vannais read an email that he had received from Ben M Coyle at Bacon & Wilson law firm, dtd 6/30/16 @2:10 PM9(attch) advising them to sign. Vannais will forward a copy of this email to the acting executive secretary for inclusion in these minutes. Discussion ended.

Vote: UNANIMOUS Order was signed by all members

Attorney General letter - deadline for information requested is Aug 22nd. As indicated in the agenda, all material is available except the minutes from the executive session, Mar 22. Boyce searched the Selectmen's computer and reprinted copies for everyone.

Vannais moved to release the minutes for the sake of discussion 2nd Boyce Vote: UNANIMOUS

Discussion: Vannais stated that the minutes were not accurate. He suggested that there was a bias to the recording and he could not accept them. Milanese agreed. They collectively felt that their intension was misrepresented. Vannais expressed concern about elected officials and their interaction with employees hired by the Board of Selectmen. He reiterated this is a very real problem that there doesn't seem to have an answer and as a result of this incident, the town has lost a valuable employee. Milanese stated that the incident which triggered this matter was not the focus of the executive session, rather there was a desire on his part to find an appropriate course of action. Decoteau suggested that the best course of action was to amend the executive session minutes, vote to accept with amendment and forward as requested. Vannais volunteered to write the amendment.

Vannais moved to contact the attorney general for an extension. 2nd Boyce Vote: UNANIMOUS

NEW BUSINESS: Mark Campbell seeking a variance for a right away will be invited to next meeting. Assessors will also be asked to come and share their findings regarding this matter.

Milanese was contacted regarding a bug collecting survey and wanted to assure residents that this is a legitimate venture. Boyce said he had been contacted as a resident and this is concerning a study of the long horned beetle.

Milanese reported that he contacted Tim Martin to replace light bulbs in various town buildings. The overhead electrical door openers for the highway barn have been ordered but cannot be installed until October. It was noted that the Highway superintendent has been informed. Duly noted that it was unfortunate that we had to wait that long but it was the company's first opening.

Milanese reported that the building inspector would be leaving as of the end of the month. He has several projects in progress and is making every attempt to complete them before his tenure ends. Boyce mentioned that if no one is hired it may become necessary for the town to secure a state inspector and that is very costly. Milanese would like to see the list of candidates from the last search and perhaps contact some of them. It is advantageous to hire someone rather than having a state inspector come out from Boston. He asked that Mrs. Worth check on the general registration posting for this position.

Milanese presented vouchers for services completed in the previous year. The total was \$1596.60 and funding source needed to be specified. All members expressed concern that this has been a recurring problem. Reluctantly, it was agreed that the only place to take the money was from the Norcross fund and to again remind vendors that this is not a popular procedure. Milanese moved to pay these vouchers from the Norcross fund. 2nd Vannais Vote: UNANIMOUS

Milanese mentioned the special permit for Walker Road project. Boyce asked if it had cleared the Planning Board. Milanese said he thought it had but back in 2000 or 2001. In any event this is a matter for the Building Inspector.

Milanese mentioned that he had been made aware the number of meals served at the senior center was dwindling. He suggested they talk to the senior coordinator for her input

9:45 pm Vannais moved adjourn 2nd Boyce Vote: UNANIMOUS

A full recording of this meeting can be obtained in DVD form from the Board of Selectmen for a fee.