

Town of Sweden Selectmen's Meeting
November 10, 2015

Attendance: Lori Bennett, Wayne Miller, Bruce Taylor, Eric Gulbrandsen, Corin Meehan, Kim Ashley and DJ Curtis.

Lori Bennett called for the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm and then called the meeting to order.

Lori made a motion to approve the Selectmen's meeting minutes for October 27, 2015. Motion was 2nd by Bruce Taylor, and approved 3-0.

Visitors:

Report of officers and committees:

Animal Control Officer- Jacqueline Frye:

CEO- Eric Gulbrandsen:

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

1. BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED:
Michael & Peggy Constantino, Knights Hill Rd. R8,14-1,2.5 story 3302 sq. ft. single family \$421.24
2. R. V. PERMITS ISSUED:
NONE
3. CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED:
Robert & Kimberlea Foster, Lochan Way, R9, 27-3
4. VIOLATION NOTICES ISSUED:
Central Maine Power, vegetative screening Bridgton & Webber Pond Roads.
5. TIMBER HARVEST NOTIFICATIONS:
Sam Black, 372 Sam Ingalls Rd, R6, 20
Louis Clark, Lovell Rd.,
Howard & Joan Buker,
6. OTHER:
Conversation with CMP over how to rectify N.O.V.
Fielded calls about chicken farming.
Received CMP plan for resolution to N.O.V.

Eric Gulbrandsen

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Selectmen discussed junk car ordinances with Eric. Court action is the next step, said Eric. Corin suggested contacting MMA for support. Wayne Miller stated that we have an obligation to uphold the town's ordinances.

Clerk – Alberta Ridlon:

Treasurer – Kim Ashley

Kim discussed the heat in the town office. She said the thermostat had been giving trouble but seems to be working better now.

SVFD - Corin Meehan

SWEDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Operations and Administration Report

November 10, 2015

Operations

There have been two requests for service in the reporting period. The first was a car vs deer MVC on Lovell Rd., there was no injury to the occupant. We also received a report of a possible fire in the woods off Lovell Rd. Unfortunately the caller did not dial 911, but rather called my personal cell phone at 11 pm (while I was asleep) to report this. Fortunately, the call was likely a "good intent", as no other reports were received, and there was nothing amiss in the area by daylight.

This serves as a reminder of how we need to encourage proper reporting of emergencies. In many small towns, people are used to calling someone from the fire department directly for something they're not sure about being an emergency or not. This is primarily because there was a time when even formal reporting involved calling the department directly via "red phone" networks. If citizens do not use 911 for requesting public safety, there is no guarantee that they will receive service.

This is the third time we have received a call in this manner, and we have anecdotal evidence that there have been other requests for service made in this manner over the years. In all cases, none were true emergencies, and thusly no negative outcome resulted.

We need to emphasize that any request for fire department response MUST be made through the Oxford County Communications Center by dialing 911. Any non-emergent request for service (stove inspections, questions, concerns, etc.) should be made by calling the fire station at 647-2781 (unmanned, but voicemails answered within 48 hrs.), or emailing the chief at swedenfirechief@gmail.com.

The condition of Engine 3 is still being evaluated. We do plan on removing the truck from service within the year. It will remain in service into the winter however, as its importance (and our financial condition) requires that we extract every last drop of service life from our apparatus. We are having work done on Engine 1 to improve its condition to primary engine status by the end of the year.

We are applying some more "bandaids" to the station for the upcoming winter. We will be installing heat tape to prevent ice dams on the engine bay eave, and dangerous slide offs on the man-door side. Any other weatherization "targets of opportunity" will be addressed.

Annual SCBA flow testing has been completed, with all units passed, and some important upgrades installed. Apparatus pump testing is being conducted today, in town, with Yankee Fire Apparatus service. The technician will also be performing some small maintenance details to improve our operational setups on both trucks.

Administration

The FY '16 budget has been submitted for review. Of note, a reduction on vehicle maintenance and payroll lines, and an increase request on the apparatus replacement CIP. There are several factors behind these but, CIP excepting, should not be considered as a reduction in the cost of doing business, if anything our cost of doing is continuing to rise. We were lucky to have some lower costs this year however others will be higher at year's end. Also increasing is the need for an adequate apparatus replacement fund to offset any future purchasing costs.

Currently, fiscally speaking, we are in the cyclical pattern that's been in place for several years regarding budget usage. This is partially beyond our control, as the (potentially) costliest period of operations (financially and on infrastructure) for fire departments is both the beginning, AND end of our budget cycle. Most municipalities use the July-June cycle, which can make operating costs easier to predict and pace. With our lower budget, we tend to err on the side of

conservative for fear of overextending ourselves. Unfortunately, this also means that sometimes scheduling projects is difficult.

We are also often dependent on the schedules of outside service providers. Many of these contractors are overbooked already, as our area is underserved in many areas of service. We are adapting by finding new contractors, but also ones that are able to come to us and do vehicle maintenance, or other major projects that normally required a day or days, and sending a truck and personnel out of the area. These contractors will also provide “automatic delivery” for scheduled maintenance. This will make cost cycles and schedules easier to predict, as reduce the need for personnel to be available to deliver trucks to other towns on weekdays.

We look forward to any upcoming budgetary discussions with the board and budget committee. There are many long-term considerations that we all need to be thinking about.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corin Meehan, Fire

Wayne asked Corin about the clutch on Engine 1. Corin said it needs to be adjusted. Corin discussed the maintenance on the Fire engines and what his short and long range plans were for them.

Bruce asked Corin about what his priority would be over a new fire engine or a new fire building. Corin said that is a difficult question as they are both important, but the fire station would be a priority. Bruce discussed the fire department insurance with Corin as related to rating by ISO. We are rated class 9, which is about as low as you can get, Corin explained. Water delivery is weak and would need a tanker truck to increase the class rating, said Corin.

Corin told the Selectmen about a new IT program, called Fire Station Software.

DJ discussed with Corin the Fire Department expenditures for 2015.

Wayne asked Corin about flushing the cistern on Black Mountain Road. Corin said he did not know about that agreement. Corin said he would take care of it.

Bruce discussed the supplemental insurance for the firemen. Corin will be acting on it soon.

Road Commissioner – Stephen Bennett:

ROAD COMMISSIONERS REPORT

10/28/15-11/10/15

Work done since last report:

Patching was done on pot holes on Black Mtn. Road, Webber Pond Rd. and Hardscrabble Rd. Gravel was put down on Lee Gray Rd. and ditching was done where needed. More winter sand has been hauled into sand shed. Ditching and a culvert replacement was done on Hardscrabble Rd.

Work to be done in the next month:

Fixing drainage issue by Don Bradley’s driveway – ditching and possible culvert. Ditching and rip rap to be done on the backside hill of Black Mtn. Rd. Branches to be cut on sides of road where needed. Fire Pond entrance to be fixed with crushed gravel. Order Black Mtn. Rd. sign for Webber Pond end and Fern Drive sign put up.

Expenses:

Steve Bennett Trucking, Inc. - \$12,527.50

Morse Concrete, Inc. - \$7,466.00

Anticipated expenses:

Steve Bennett Trucking, Inc.

Morse Concrete, Inc.

Wayne made a motion to make the same winter road closures as last year. 2nd by Lori and motion was approved 3-0
Marr Road, Trull Brook Road from Bill Centamore to Rt. 93, the Bennett Road and Fern Drive from the intersection to the Lovell town line, from October 1 to May 1st.

Wayne made a motion to spend up to \$2000 for roadside tree trimming. Motion was 2nd by Bruce and approved 2-0

Admin. Assistant – Diana Curtis (DJ)

P & L discussion of Trio adjustments by auditor and remaining necessary adjustments was described by DJ. New Income vs Expense reports were distributed.

Old Business:

Lori spoke with Peter Malia who is getting together a repurchase contract.

New Business

Bruce asked about getting the light bulbs replaced in the town office inside and out. Wayne said he would call Jason Wentworth.

Alberta left a note mentioning that the Selectmen never appointed the Fire Chief.

Communications:

Mail Received:

Eastern slope authority meeting notice

Safe Voice request for budget information, Wayne will contact them and let them know what they need to send.

Central Maine Power pole placement notification

MSAD 72 letter regarding a cap for town payments

Budget request from the Food Pantry.

Next meeting will be November 24, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

Lori made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Wayne 2nd the motion and it was passed 3-0.

Respectfully

Diana J. Curtis

Adm. Asst. to Board of Selectmen