

Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District

Meeting Minutes

Saturday March 12th, 2016

Committee Members Present: Elise Fitzsimmons; Chair, Howard Lerner; Vice Chairman, Vee Cowell, Stan Taylor, Sandy Cortez-Greig, Joe Gagnon, Denielle Morin; Clerk-Treasurer

Committee members absent: Patty Clemons,

Public present- Julia Grace, Robb Grace, Gilles Beaudoin, Dave Devane, Attorney Elizabeth Goodman, Esq.

The meeting is opened at: 9:00 am, General Laws Chapter 30A Section 20.

Mr. Lerner makes a motion to wave the reading of the open meeting laws. Mr. Taylor seconds the motion. The vote is unanimous.

Meeting Minutes- Mr. Lerner makes a motion to accept the minutes with the noted revisions. Mr. Taylor seconds the motion. The vote is unanimous.

Road Superintendent Report- Mr. Andrews states that there was some wash outs repaired but everything else has been rather quiet. Mrs. Fitzsimmons makes mention that Arlene Adler has asked that her road Lancelot Lane be looked at due to wash out. Mr. Andrews states that he is having trouble finding the state standard for street signs. He is unsure if they should currently be 3 inch or 4 inch signs. Mrs. Fitzsimmons asks Mr. Andrews to make a list of street signs that are missing. Mr. Andrews states that he will contact a supplier in Pittsfield to see if they know what the state standards are. Elizabeth Goodman suggesting contacting MA DOT.

Maid Marion Road Repair- Mr. Andrews tells the board he intends to go out to bid the first week of April.

Clerk/Treasurers Report- Ms. Morin draws the board's attention to the spreadsheet showing what has been spent so far. Mrs. Fitzsimmons makes note that as of February 2015 the board had spent \$86,000 on winter roads. This year through February the board has spent \$39,000 on winter roads. As of February 2015 the board had spent \$67,000 on general roads. This year through February, the board has spent \$58,000 on general roads. In 2015, the total spent through February was \$191,000. So far this year the board has spent \$125,000. Ms. Morin tells the board that she spoke with the assessor's office regarding the notice of the commitment. After much discussion with the Mass DOR and the assessor's office, it was determined that there was a miscommunication in the instructions of how to fill out the district tax rate information in Gateway and therefore the information entered set the district budget to match what was spent last year rather than the budget set for this year. Therefore, this year's budget will be short by \$48,000. Ms. Morin states that she was told by the Mass DOR that it can be fixed by talking with the state legislature and getting them to reopen it. However, it is the opinion of Jim Podolak at the Mass DOR that with a mild winter leaving overage in winter roads and the \$82,000 certified in free cash current 2013 through current, the district should not need the additional \$48,000. Ms. Morin also states that she submitted the free cash certification paperwork to Jim Podolak and after 2014 and 2015 are certified we should have a total free cash of \$120,000. Mrs. Fitzsimmons makes mention that next month the board needs to determine if they want to raise taxes back to what they were supposed to be this year or if they want to utilize some of the free cash. Mr. Andrews and Mrs. Fitzsimmons intend to meet about the road budget before the April meeting. Lastly, Ms. Morin mentions she has only received about 20 responses to the Wells Rd

letter.

Public Input- There is no public input.

Warrant- Ms. Morin asks Mr. Andrews if there is a work order for gravel to go along with the Tonlino bill. Mr. Andrews says that Ms. Morin should hold the bill until next month and he will inquire with White Wolf before the April meeting. The new total is \$28,251.52 and that includes the Crandall Storage bill to be paid when the bill arrives. Ms. Morin also updates that sending a letter last month to Crandall Storage to remove the late fees worked and they have been removed. Mr. Lerner makes a motion to accept the warrant. Mr. Taylor seconds the motion. The vote is unanimous.

Expansion of Voting Rights- Mrs. Fitzsimmons informs everyone that at the Select Board meeting a month ago, the Select Board informed everyone the Town of Becket will not send out tax bills to the Wells Rd residents without a court order. Elizabeth Goodman, the district's lawyer, mentions that she spoke with Ed at town hall and confirmed they will not send tax bills without a court order. Mrs. Goodman would like Mrs. Fitzsimmons to go speak with Ed to see if he still refusing to send tax bills unless they get a court order. As it stands now, there are people who can come to the annual meeting that can vote but don't pay taxes, people who vote and pay taxes and people who pay taxes but can't vote. Mr. Cortez-Greig mentions that he drafted a letter to the Select Board to explain what the district is trying to do with the expansion of voting rights in hope of smoothing everything over. Mr. Lerner makes a motion to accept the letter with Mrs. Goodman's proposed edits. Mr. Taylor seconds the motion. The vote in unanimous.

Mrs. Kay Grace expresses her objection to the meeting moving to executive session. Mrs. Goodman assures her it is within the board's right to move to executive session to meet with their legal counsel regarding legal action.

Adjournment- The meeting will move to executive session and adjourn from executive session.

Executive Session- Mrs. Fitzsimmons takes a roll call vote to go into executive session. Howard Lerner moves to go into executive session. Stan Taylor moves to go into executive session. Vee Cowell moves to go into executive session. Elise Fitzsimmons moves to go into executive session. Sandy Cortez-Greig moves to go into executive session.

Scheduled next meeting is for April 9th, 2016 at 9 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denielle Morin
Clerk-Treasurer