

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

# **Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District- Annual Meeting**

Saturday, June 2nd, 2012

Committee Members Present: David Bonney, Gilles Beaudoin, Nancy Devane, Al Bavernik, Dave Devane, Marty Feit, Clerk-Treasurer.

Committee Members Absent: Gerry Grondin

Public Present: Allan Labonbard, Melva Norton, Eugene Norton, Julia Kay-Grace, Robert Grace, Leroy Chessic, Kimberly VanBuren, Ronald VanBuren, Lindy Hathaway, Arlene Adler, Ronald Thompson, Caroline Summit, Steven Rosenthal, Kathleen Siefer, David Siefer, Francis Bavernik, Albert Bavernik, Eva Bonney, David Bonney, Paulette Feit, Martin Feit, Nancy Devane, David Devane, Mike McEnerney.

The meeting is opened at 10:30 am.

Location: Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street

Meeting Introduction; I.A.W. - M.G.L. CH30A- Section 20.

Moderator: Steven Rosenthal

Article one: Mr. Rosenthal announces that a quorum is present, twenty-one people in attendance. Mr. Rosenthal is nominated to act as moderator, the motion is seconded; Unanimous Approval. Mr. Rosenthal advises that all officers and committee members need to be submitted by written ballots. Mr. Bonney makes a motion to allow the moderator position to be done by a voice vote only, motion is seconded; Unanimous Approval.

Article two: To see if the current meetings pay of twenty-five dollars could be increased to fifty dollars per meeting. Member of the public asks why the pay should be increased 100%, stating that the money is tight and that the budget is as well. Mr. Bonney advises that the reason for the increase is the fact that they are having a very difficult time trying to get people to show up to the meetings. He goes on to explain that often, people are traveling from afar and incur toll and gas expenses that reach almost the fifty dollar mark. Ms. Catherine Smith states that a twenty five dollar difference isn't really that much and doesn't understand how that would motivate an individual to show up. Ms. Devane explains to her that they are at a meeting from one to three hours and twenty five dollars

doesn't even cover their expenses. Ms. Devane assures Ms. Smith that they are obviously not serving on the committee for the pay, rather than to be there and make a difference for all the residents. Mr. Bonney uses the example of the Selectmen, advising that they receive \$1500 yearly pay whether they show up or not. He goes on to explain that the members on the Sherwood Forest Road District only receive pay when they show up for the meeting and that they are hoping that raising the pay to \$50 per meeting will provide additional incentive for the members to make sure that they attend all the meetings.

Mr. Rosenthal states that he will be taking a quick break, due to the fact that he was not properly sworn in as moderator and needs to do so before they take the vote on this article. Mr. Feit reads aloud the oath to Mr. Rosenthal; Mr. Rosenthal accepts the oath and is now officially the moderator.

Ms. Kimberly VanBuren asks if for the non-resident position, it would be an option for the member to skype in rather than to physically travel there. Ms. Devane explains to her that the law states that they must have a quorum present first. Members of the public discuss whether or not the increase in meeting pay would make the difference in attendance that they are seeking. Ms. Lucy Ferriss asks why the bylaws limits the prudential committee to only five members and two alternate members, explaining that this may make it more difficult to come up with a quorum. Members discuss if possibly keeping the meeting pay at the current \$25 per meeting, however adding to that the mileage compensation at the current federal rate, all present discuss.

A motion is made to keep the meeting pay at the current \$25 per meeting, but include the reimbursement for the federal standards of mileage, to be at 55.5 cents per mile, when the member attends the meeting. Mr. Feit advises that giving the mileage reimbursements will cost a good amount more, using Mr. Gil Beaudoin as an example, figuring his mileage; it would come out to be over \$70 just in mileage, plus the current \$25 meeting pay. Mr. Feit explains that this would not be cost effective for the committee and suggests that the flat rate of \$50 keeps it much simpler and still gives fair compensation. It is suggested that the \$50 meeting compensation be given this year, and they will revisit this next year at the annual meeting and compare what the costs would have been.

Mr. Rosenthal asks for a vote on the current motion on the floor to maintain the \$25 per meeting pay and to add to that the 55.5 cent mileage pay to that; In favor: 6, opposed: 10. Motion is not passed and Mr. Rosenthal asks that it be removed at this time.

Mr. Rosenthal then brings the original article back on the floor, to raise the current meeting pay from \$25 to the proposed \$50 per meeting, Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote; All in favor, Unanimous Approval.

Mr. Rosenthal brings article three, to appropriate the monies requested on the warrant for the 2012-2013 annual budget. A motion is made to do so, motion is seconded. Mr. Rosenthal directs all present to take a quick moment to review the line items and that they will discuss all challenged items and then vote on the rest. All line items that are not specifically questioned will be bundled up in a "package" and voted on as a whole, Mr.

Rosenthal makes sure that everyone understand, a motion is made to approve all line items that are not currently being questioned, motion is seconded, Unanimous Approval . Mr. Rosenthal then moves on to the line items in question:

Superintendent Expense- it is asked why the amount went from \$0 this year to \$200 for next year. Mr. Feit explains that there is a convention that the superintendent must attend and the \$200 is to cover the expenses incurred. Ms. Devane adds that this year the superintendent paid all expensed out of his pocket. Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote on the proposed \$200 expense account, unanimous approval.

General Reserves- Member of the public asks what exactly this money is used for. Mr. Feit and Mr. Bonney both effectively explain that this money is there just in case they need it for an unforeseen expense, further explaining that they then do not have to hold a special meeting to get the approval. It is then asked how it is decided how and when the general reserve money is spent. Mr. Bonney explains that it would of course have to be proposed at a meeting, and then voted upon for approval. Mr. Bonney uses the example of the expenses incurred from the big ice storm, as a situation that warranted the monies being used. Mr. Rosenthal takes a vote for the proposed \$500 to be put into the general reserve fund, as explained by committee members; Unanimous Approval.

Attorney Fees- It is asked what the anticipated legal expenses may be. Mr. Bonney explains that they will be having a two-year contract, and they don't expect it to go over \$1000. Mr. Feit advises that they do not have any pending legal issues. Mr. Bonney adds that the all-seasons two-year contract will have to be reviewed by the attorney, but that is the only anticipated significant expense at this time. Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote, all votes in favor, Unanimous Approval.

Contract Services- It is asked if there are any changes in anticipated services; Mr. Feit advises that there are no changes. He advises that the money is there in case someone needs a service, this money will provide for that. Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote, all votes in favor; Unanimous Approval.

Insurance- Mr. Feit advises that there is no change and that it is the same level of insurance. Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote, all votes in favor, Unanimous Approval.

Refunds- It is asked what exactly a refund is. Mr. Feit explains that a refund occurs when someone has an overpayment on their taxes, the money comes back to the district and they in turn issue a refund to that individual. Member of the public asks whether any bad debts are figured into this amount, Mr. Bonney says no, no bad debts are figured into this. Mr. Bonney states that they could do their own taxes; however this would end up costing even more in the end. Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote to put the amount of \$0 in this account, all votes in favor; Unanimous Approval.

Accountant- Mr. Feit explains that this year they will need an audit. Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote to approve the accountant account in the sum of \$1000, all votes in favor; unanimous Approval.

Mr. Rosenthal advises that this concludes the approval for the 2012-2013 proposed budget.

Article 4- To approve rollover funds from 2011-2012- An amended motion is made to rollover the left over money into the general reserve fund. Mr. Feit confirms that the \$29,000 will not be spent without the District holding a meeting and then it would go to a vote of the people. Mr. Feit also advises that this money is referred to as “free cash” by the state. A member of the public suggests that the rollover money be put into a CD account, stating that she doesn’t see any CDs. It is stated that although the interest rates are very low, some interest is better than none at all. Committee members suggest that maybe in the future they can have a meeting to amend the current bylaws regarding this issue. Mr. Bonney again confirms that they cannot touch the money without the approval of the voters. All present discuss the wording of the motion, amending it to mention a newly formed “general fund 2”.

At this point it is suggested that some of the people with so many questions ought to consider attending a road district meeting on a monthly basis so that they are aware of what is going on and understand what exactly the district does, rather than keeping everyone so long at this meeting which seems unfair.

The motion is amended to add that the money will be put into a municipal money market account. Questions from the floor asking what exactly the money market account is, committee members explain. The amended motion to rollover the funds that were not used in fiscal year 2011-2012 into a municipal money market fund is made, motion is seconded; Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote, all votes to approve; Unanimous Approval.

Article 5-Election of committee members, as follows:

Nancy Devane makes a motion to change two of the positions as they appear on the warrant; these changes will simply adjust the warrant so that it complies with the bylaws. Ms. Devane proposes to change the Alternate resident position from a one year term to a two year term, also to change the Alternate Non-Resident position from a two year term to a one year term, Mr. Rosenthal explains that is due to the fact that this position was not filled this year. Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote to see if the people will approve the amendments as proposed by Ms. Devane and explained by Mr. Rosenthal: all votes in favor, Unanimous Approval.

Clerk Treasurer- Two year term; A motion is made to nominate Martin Feit, motion is seconded; Unanimous Approval. (Mr. Rosenthal gets permission to not mandate the written ballot and move to use vote by voice only) Mr. Rosenthal goes on to explain that a majority vote is eleven out of the twenty votes. Mr. Rosenthal briefly explains the process to all present before he moves on.

Regular Resident- Mr. David Bonney is nominated for regular resident, motion is seconded, Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote, all votes in favor. Mr. Rosenthal asks if there are any other nominations; hearing none, Mr. Bonney receives the position of regular resident.

Alternate resident- Ms. Arlene Adler is nominated, motion is seconded, Mr. Rosenthal counts eleven votes, and Arlene Adler receives this position.

Regular member Non-Resident- Mr. Feit nominates Mike McEerney, Mr. Rosenthal calls for a vote, eleven votes in support. Mr. Rosenthal asks if there are any other nominations on the floor; Ms. Catherine Smith is nominated, Mr. Rosenthal counts the nomination votes, there are only five votes, motion is moved off the floor. A motion is made to nominate Mr. Ben Daigle, Ben does not accept the nomination. Mr. Mike McEerney receives the regular non-resident position.

Alternate Non-Resident- Mr. Ben Daigle is nominated for the position of alternate non-resident, motion is seconded, Mr. Rosenthal counts the votes on the floor to be eleven. Mr. Rosenthal asks if there are any other nominations, Catherine Smith is nominated, but does not accept.

Mr. Rosenthal has the ballots passed out and explains that there are four names on the slate and explains that they can simply write “yes” if they accept the slate of nominees. Mr. Rosenthal announces that there are nineteen votes for everyone on the ballot, and offers his congratulations to all. Mr. Bonney asks that all of the new committee members please make sure and get sworn in before they leave today.

A motion to adjourn the meeting is made and seconded. Mr. Rosenthal adjourns the meeting and advises that the next regularly scheduled meeting is set for Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Marty Feit takes a moment to swear in all newly elected members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marty Feit  
Clerk-Treasurer