



Town of Livermore Falls



Select Board Meeting

Tuesday November 15, 2022

Board: Jim Long, Ernie Souther, Will Kenniston, Bruce Peary, James Cyr

Department Heads: Amanda Allen, Bill Nichols, Brandon Hobbs, Mark Holt

Residents/Public: See sign in sheet

6:30 Pledge of Allegiance

Welcomes Jim Cyr as newly elected select board member

Jim motions to go into executive session at 6:32 for legal matters

Ernie makes 2nd motion

VOTE 5-0 to enter executive session for legal matters

Executive meeting ended at 6:50

Approval of minutes:

Will made motion to accept minutes from November 2, 2022

Jim made 2nd motion

Vote 3-0 to accept minutes as written (Ernie and Jim not present)

New Business: Ron Smith from RHR Smith over the phone says this is an

Informational call and that he is finalizing 2021 audit says the town is in great financial health and there is a surplus, he has been working with Amanda to reconcile the books and will be here December 6, 2022 to present the audit findings.



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Updated Sewer Department Schedule:

Mark shared that he has hired Garret Lovewell and he is learning the operation and will go on rotation of on call once he is fully trained. They are working together to come up with the best schedule for everyone whether it is 4-10 hour shifts or 5-8 hour shifts and feels this will definitely help with the burn out factor and that he just needs approval to be put in union.

Jim made 1st motion

Bruce made 2nd motion

VOTE: 5-0 in favor of signing union paperwork.

Street project:

Church, Knapp and Millett Streets

Mark gave the updates of the project. Water department approached sewer department for a joint project on these streets with the anticipation that the sewer department would be getting a grant money however, there is no grant money for the sewer department at this time and Mark feels that although the clay pipes are 70+ years old that they are in good shape and feels they will be ok and we simply can not afford this debt at this time and that this in the best interest of the town.

Will- you know the pipes and your judgement should be what we go by.

Mark says at some time we may be able to get the grant just not yet and when we do the design has been done.

JustNiks:

Forrest Fungi believes it can bring revenue to the town with this business, they say that 2.5 million in the next 5 years.

Chaga mushrooms grow on trees and looks like black lumps of coal and is believed to be medicine and the key and cure to every illness. They are the only company



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for the next 10 years to have this kind of business of growing and cultivating the Chaga mushrooms.

The trees are implanted with special wooden dowels from Belgium and will produce 15 pounds over the course of their lifetime and the mushrooms are purchased back from the landowner therefore, helping out the town and the residents. The initial investment is \$3.00 per dowel and the investor receives back \$75.00 per dowel and with \$100,000.00 investment they could receive back up to \$300,000.00 because this is a guaranteed market for the sales of the entire Charga Harvest.

At this point they have contracts with medical companies and are state and federally approved and very happy to have settled here in Livermore Falls and have felt very welcomed in the community.

Old Business:

Fire Department:

Jim asked Amanda to do update however, Amanda was not at the meeting with Sherman and had not received updates from selectmen she turned it back to Jim.

Ernie brought Sherman to the fire station for a visit and inspection and to find out what his perspective would be as he is very knowledgeable and we would love to bring him on as a consultant or advisor if it would work and he has not charged the town anything up to this point.

During the follow-up meeting on November 9th Sherm was asked if he felt the town could support a fire station, his response is with investing in equipment and people, we need to rebuild the team, revitalize and restore.

No fire chief yet and we are in need of volunteers and maybe some deserve a second chance. Can we get a plan on what we are going to do about a chief.

Jim to Amanda: Can we make a plan

Amanda to Jim: it is up to the board



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Sheila Scanlon asked if we could get something going with schools to get younger generation involved.

Jim- low number of firefighters we used to have 10-12 show up when there was a call and now it 0-2 like at the Campground Rd fire there was 0, Tom Barker spoke up and said there was at least including himself

there with 1 Livermore Falls Fire Department truck.

Will: Thinks value in town fire department needs to be built up

Board can give suggestions to the town manager

Amanda Ricci spoke up about people leaving and says there is no leadership among the department and at town level, and too much drama and pettiness. When Eddie Hastings was there, we always had several responders because he was a good leader. Amanda also spoke of the trainings she has kept up on including firefighter 1 & 2 as well as many other lifesaving trainings.

Sheila says it used to be 12 minutes to the trailer park in East Livermore and now we have to wait for another town to respond which is about 26 minutes. We have to start treating people right and they will come back. The buck stops with the board, you have to do something.

Amanda Ricci announced that she would take the job as Chief of the Fire Department.

Tom Barker says we need to find someone "willing to do the job"

Ernie made first motion to find Fire Chief as soon as possible

Jim made second motion

VOTE 5-0 to proceed with the process of finding new chief

Ron Chadwick says the crew always had input on who the chief would be and then they were always willing to fight for that chief.

Jim: Select Board committed to having own fire department and wants town manager to go forth with expected date of having a candidate by January 1, 2023.



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We need leadership to begin rebuilding the department, would like to see several positions filled by the end of physical year.

No warrants/abatement/deeds/quit claim

Board Discussion:

Bruce: Veterans Day acknowledge Jim Cyr and Ernie Souther for their service

Will: Consider to make changes to bylaws to make a 3-minute limit of questions or comments from public and that there is desire for more community involvement.

Ernie said in 2005 agenda there was opportunity for questions or comments and that he likes the idea

Ernie made motion for conversations after warrants and deeds

Bruce made 2nd motion

VOTE: 5-0 in favor of 3-minute conversations and or comments

Have Alex put this on website to get names and topics

Jim: this will be open discussion about topics not individuals, keep it clean

And keep it productive and that this could change if needed

Jim- Police Chief, please move forward, Substation- move forward with substation in East Livermore Fire Department as it has been 2 years and we just have a survey done.

Ernie- reduce the number on the Budget Committee from 9 slots to 5 like the rest of the committees and maybe we can fill the positions or at least be able to have a quorum. We do have 1 person interested Amanda Ricci.

Department Heads:

Bill- finished Searles Street and plow trucks are ready for Winter

Brandon- 9 violations last month voluntarily doing clean-up and lots of plumbing and septic permits.

Amanda-nothing



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Jim made 1st motion to adjourn

Ernie made 2nd motion

VOTE 5-0 to adjourn

8:20 meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted by

Doris Austin,

Town Clerk