

**Town of Haverhill Selectboard
Highway Department Merger Meeting Minutes
Wednesday - January 8, 2020**

Draft Subject to Review

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Darwin Clogston, Howard Hatch, Tom Friel, Fred Garofalo

Town Employees Present:

Town Manager: Brigitte Codling

Finance Officer: Jennifer Boucher

Members of the Public in Attendance: Dick Guy, Paul Kidder, Steve Wheeler

The meeting began at 6:00 PM

Mr. Guy stated he had emailed Brigitte and Jennifer separately about payment for a sewer hookup fee from 2018 and how the Woodsville Precinct had not yet received their \$12,500. There was a \$25,000 hookup fee and he stated the agreement between the Town and the Woodsville Precinct is they would receive half of that, but they have yet to receive it. The Town is in the middle of looking through sewer hookup charges, fees, and agreements. So, the Town will look further into Mr. Guy's request.

Mr. Guy stated that the Woodsville Precinct had secured an attorney, and said the attorney asked Mr. Guy to request a written explanation of how the Town is applying the law and the Memorandum of Understanding this year. As a follow up, the attorney asked how long that might take. TM Codling reminded commissioners that the Town had already walked the three Woodsville Precinct Commissioners through how the Town is applying the MOU, the formula in the MOU, and how the monies are being calculated already. The request for more information will be addressed with the Town's attorney and nothing more will be forthcoming without advice of the Town's lawyers.

The purpose of the meeting, which was to begin Highway Merger Warrant Article language and to begin drafting the Merger Agreement language, was brought up.

Dick Guy stated that the Woodsville Precinct Commissioners do not support a Highway Department Merger, so the Town should draft the Merger Agreement and then they should also present it at the Precinct Town Meeting. He said they can review ahead of time. TM Codling reminded that the meeting was set up so the two groups could work together to draft the merger agreement.

Mr. Guy explained that they are not in favor of the merger, so the Town needs to "come up with their plan". The Woodsville Precinct will be holding a meeting on the 5th of March at 7:00 PM. The Precinct will include the warrant, but they ask that the Town present it because they are not in favor of the merger.

**Town of Haverhill Selectboard
Highway Department Merger Meeting Minutes
Wednesday - January 8, 2020**

TM Codling again reminded the Woodsville Precinct Commissioners that the meeting was set up so the group could together draft the warrant articles so that everything is consistent across the board, at both the Precinct and Town Annual Meetings.

TM Codling asked if Mr. Guy would be willing to take responsibility for drafting the warrant article language.

The Precinct would prefer that people be aware that the Town is taking ownership of this process and but agreed to writing the warrant article language.

The Town agreed to take responsibility for drafting the Merger Agreement / Plan.

Everyone will meet up again before the Town's Annual Meeting date so they can go over the articles and merger plan so that everyone is on the same page about what is being looked at.

Mr. Guy drafted a "concept sheet" as to what the Precinct thinks are the issues with the idea of merging that he wants voters to see before they voted.

Mr. Guy also brought the 2018 highway budget, which was \$423,758, so that if anyone wanted to know where certain money was spent, they could look at it on this sheet.

Mr. Guy asked if the Town was willing to have residents vote during the Town Meeting, instead of by ballot vote ahead of time. He stated he thought this would allow the town's folks to ask any questions and discuss things.

Finance Officer Collins stated that they could consider doing that, unless the law required them to put in on the ballot.

TM Codling stated she preferred holding a public hearing before Town Meeting at which voters could be educated on the Merger Agreement / Plan and ask questions. Then have the question on the ballot for voting.

It was agreed that the group could cancel the second Highway Merger meeting scheduled for tomorrow night.

Also, the 2019 Town Report will be completed and sent to the public before Town Meeting so a lot of the information will also be in there. The report goes out to every house in town.

The meeting ajourned at 6:20 PM

Minutes by Alexis Collins