**Board of Selectmen meeting minutes**

**7/25/2016, 6:00pm, Rhodes Building**

**Selectmen present:** Jim Doubleday, Bill Martell.

**Selectman absent:** Alisa Pearson

**Others present:** Jeff & Judy Eiseman, Fred Vanderbeck-Finance, Town Clerk-Kathy Martell, Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant-Susannah Carey.

**Open:** Selectman Doubleday opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

**3.Eiseman Well**

In 2015, salt was discovered in Jeff & Judy Eiseman’s well on Arnhold Road where they have lived for 47 years. No E-coli was found but some sediment still remains even after about 6 months of running the water occasionally. The tests have now been completed. The old well was tested by Dan Henshaw, who suggested drilling a new well because he couldn’t ensure the safety completely of the old well. The new well was finished November 2015. The Eiseman’s wondered if the salt that leached into not only their well but their pond was caused from road run off from salt/sand that is spread in the wintertime by the DPW or from somewhere else. Arnhold Road began angling towards their house originally but the changes that Rick, Highway Superintendent, has made and continues to make have helped. There is now a step down off the driveway and the water on the road runs toward the easement.

Selectman Doubleday spoke to Bill Pula and met with Dan Henshaw, who examined the old well and drilled the new well. Mr. Henshaw stated the old well the Eiseman’s had, the casing was short and below the surface, only going down inside partway, which wasn’t down far enough to cover cracks where groundwater could possibly seep in. Selectman Doubleday agreed that the Eiseman’s needed a new well, but not just because of the presence of salt, etc, but the age and condition were also contributing factors.

Selectman Martell stated that no Free Cash was available right now so the Eiseman’s would need to speak at the Spring Town Meeting if requesting compensation. At this time the Eiseman’s are looking for compensation or mutual agreement with the Town, but were unsure of amount. The cost to fix/replace well is about $10,000.00. The Eiseman’s wondered if the Town had Insurance to cover such occurrences and if the Town would check with lawyers for liability because of the features of the old well.

Selectman Doubleday stated that the Highway Superintendent errs on the side of caution with salt/sand spreading on the Town roads and does a good job keeping the roads safe.

**1.Petition from Colonial Power**

Selectman Doubleday stated that Madam Selectman Pearson was very interested in this Aggregation with Colonial Power and was looking into the mix of power sources to include green power. Colonial Power was recommended by Hampshire Council of Governments. Fred Vanderbeck-Finance, stated that the town of Leverett uses Colonial Power as well. On a motion by Selectman Martell to sign the Petition for approval from Colonial Power, seconded by Selectman Doubleday, motion passes and approved.

**2.Weight Limit Signs-North Valley Road**

The original issue for this bridge was lowering the weight limit and posting signs to 6 ton vehicles only on the North Valley Road bridge. Rick Adamcek, Highway Superintendent, and Paul Ritter, DPW Foreman, inspected the culvert under the bridge and noticed 4 cracked capstones. Rick notified Mass DOT, Engineers examined the bridge and they decided to close the bridge indefinitely because of the condition. Jersey barriers were put up to stop traffic and bridge closed signs were put in appropriate locations. On a motion by Selectman Martell to close the bridge on North Valley Road as recommended by the Town of Pelham DPW and State DOT, seconded by Selectman Doubleday, motion passes and approved.

**Town Officials**

Kathy Martell, Town Clerk, stated there was a grant for Federal funding for State Municipalities for rural communities from the USDA. She will send the information to Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant.

Kathy Martell stated that Early Voting is coming and the Rhodes Building is not up to ADA standards. Voting can happen down at the library but the hours coincide with Kathy’s hours at the Rhodes Building so there will be additional staff needed on those days. Poll worker training is happening soon.

**Public Comment**-none.

**Liaison Reports**-tabled until next meeting.

**Old Business**-none.

**New Business**-none.

Next Regular Selectmen’s meeting: August 8, 2016

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Selectman Martell to adjourn at 6:58pm, seconded by Selectman Doubleday, motion passes.

**Documents Reviewed**

Colonial Power Petition for Town of Pelham.

Respectfully submitted, Susannah Carey