

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

May 11, 2015

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Robert Meagher, Jim Bowen, Joanne McDonnell

Guests: Jack Ross, Martha Slater, Cecil Waite, Ken Beattie, Nancy Maston, Tim Bowen, Terry Severy, Dennis Rhoades, Nancy Woolley, Ron Foley, Gordon Bedell, Jeannette Bair, Harland McKhirryer, Dicken Lary, Larry Plesent, Jon Benson, Tom Pierce, Glenn Scherer, Monica Collins

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

Doon asked to add recycling bids to the New Business portion of the agenda.

Robert made motion to accept the minutes from the April 27, 2015 meeting, seconded by Jim. So voted. Jim made motion to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2015 special selectboard meeting (sidewalk scoping kick off), seconded by Doon, so voted. Robert made motion to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2015 special meeting on grant compliance, seconded by Doon, So voted.

Guests: Jim Bowen had asked Jon Benson to discuss recycling on the park and at athletic field with the board. Jon explained that with the new ordinance, he cannot take any mixed trash and recycling after July 1. The fines are very strict and his trash loads will be checked regularly. He will have to leave the trash there, but agreed that he can do special events (Harvest Fair). Jon noted that Pittsfield took their trash bins off their park to comply, and Bethel has a "carry in-carry out" sign on their park for two summers. He was not sure how well it is working for them. The last trash pickup for the Park, Skatespace and Athletic Field will be the last week in June, 2015. Discussion ensued. The board will review.

Juli Reiderer told the board that she had received a sub grantee agreement template from Nathan Cleveland that is much easier to read than the first one sent. She asked the board for approval to draft an agreement based on the template that was sent. Approval was given and Juli will forward the draft to the board for review when complete.

Harland McKhirryer told the board that he is delivering a petition signed by Rochester voters and taxpayers regarding the "deplorable conditions of the roads". He noted that he is submitting this petition with the hope to see better road conditions, not to see any "heads roll". Joanne will double check for registered voters and forward to the board members. Lengthy discussion ensued about gravel, roads, mud season ensued. Doon noted that they need to be more proactive and the increased costs will affect the budgets. For instance, we have kept the same dollar amount budgeted for gravel, but as costs have increased, the amount of gravel received has been reduced. Larry Plesant asked if Little Hollow Rd will be turned over to Braintree, which caused short discussion. At this time there is no plan to discuss this. Jim Bowen will contact the Town of Braintree to see if we can take advantage of their gravel. Harland also asked why intersections in town were not plowed this winter, and Dan noted that they do the

best they can with equipment problems, etc. Discussion continued. Harland asked the board to please review all the names on the petition.

Jack Ross, Hancock Selectman, told the board that Hancock has applied (with help from TRORC) for two road grants to replace the lower culvert on Churchville Rd. They will need to close Churchville Rd to do this work, and the people who live above the culvert will need access to the class 4 road that goes from Buttles Rd to Oak Lodge Rd. Question asked if they can use Fiske Rd, but there is still an issue with road slides on that road. Robert noted two issues – One-will that road still be open, and two-what is the true condition of Fiske Rd. This issue segues directly into the next agenda item.

Nancy Maston explained to the board that she is here to speak about the class 4 road. She owns 9.2 acres that the road runs through which connects to her Granville property. She has studied the information presented by Deborah and Bill Matthews and disagrees with their conclusions. She encouraged the board to utilize Norm Arsenault and Norm Smith when reviewing all the evidence. She feels the road was never discontinued, and the .17 is a pent road, approximately 979 feet. Robert noted that the issue is when the Selectboard threw up the road in 1948, what exactly was their intent. The language was not clear in the records. Also it is possible the road was discontinued and then reinstated, but there is no record of this. Nancy again urged the board to review all info with Norm Arsenault of Granville. She noted that the existing wetlands in that area which run through Town Hwy 21 in Granville, which borders her property. If Matthews have an affirmative decision, she would lose access to a 42 acre portion of her property. Lengthy discussion ensued. There are three landowners that own a portion of that road. The status quo is that it is a Class 4 road. Ken Beattie noted that he has used that road for heavy equipment for years, even prior to Irene. It is safer for the public good to use that road over to Oak Lodge Rd than to use Fiske Road. Logging companies have used it in recent years as well. Robert noted that this will take time to sort through and review, and asked that everyone be patient and neighborly as this could easily end up as a court case. Nancy requested that the board keep the landowners and public informed of any meetings that may be scheduled for this situation. It is very tense in the area at this time.

Larry Plesent, Town Energy Coordinator, told the board that he has talked with Doon about the solar net metering opportunities available. He looked into net metering, and gave a brief explanation of it. Right now, the town pays approximately \$60,000.00 (excluding the school electric bills) per year to GMP. We gain bargaining position from this number. Sun Edison, who had a representative speak at a prior selectboard meeting had offered 15%, but this may not be consistent-cloud cover can affect this. Sun Common guarantees 10% in their net metering program. He found a new option, hydro power. Winooski Hydro just came back on line and they have about three million kilowatts to sell. They are looking for big bulk users to buy their power. They are offering net metering of 10%. After discussing with the owners, he was able to get them to offer 15%, which may be even higher in good years. Larry noted that the question is what gives the town a better investment over the next 20-25 years-solar or water. Glen Scherer, climate change writer, explained that while non-one can predict for sure, all models point toward more precipitation in New England as well as more cloud cover. Larry noted that Winooski Hydro asks for a 20 year contract, which is more than what the town normally agrees

to. Discussion ensued. Larry will talk to Winooski Hydro to see if they will consider working in 5 year contracts.

Jeannette Bair told the board that she had received a call from the Town Office regarding a \$53 phone call that turned out to be a webinar. She was surprised that the town still pays for long distance calls by the minute and not on a plan. She also would like to see caller id be made available. Most trainings are now done through webinars, and Robert noted that Hancock Library has unlimited use and caller ID. Joanne will check with them to see what plan they use.

Utilities: Terry still does not have prices for the meters. He attended a training last week and found that Neptune will now warranty electrical for 20 years on meters. It was noted that it has been about 4 months that we have waited or pricing information. Discussion ensued. Phelps Engineering did the spring walk around, and told Terry that all tanks down by the Town Garage will need to be pumped completely and a valve needs to be replaced between tanks 2 and 3. Extra jetting work will need to be done this year also. Short discussion ensued.

Highway: Dan asked about the power pole that has been set right in front of the Brookside Apartments. Doon spoke with Carol Burke at GMP, and if they get permission from Simpson Development, they are hoping it will be moved soon so it does not continue to be in the way. At some point there will be an overnight power outage so cable can be strung on the new poles.

Eric Belanger gave the board a quote of \$1750.00 for fixing the roof on the bandstand. Jim noted that he has asked Eric if he can do it with green architectural shingles for the same price because it will look better. Short discussion ensued. Robert would like to table this until the next issue after the board sees a budget vs actual report.

The Wi-Fi hot spot is not up and running yet. Joanne will forward the email that was sent regarding this.

Robert made motion to authorize Doon Hinderyckx to execute the application for the VT Better Back Roads grant for road and culvert inventory and capital plan with TRORC, seconded by Jim. So voted.

Sidewalk repair was mentioned. A taxpayer came in to tell Joanne that the sidewalks are dangerous as they are. No action will be taken right now; the State will be doing some storm drainage this summer. Discussion ensued.

Robert made motion to execute the contract between TRORC and the Town for administration services for the VCDP Grant for the Park House grant.

The Administrative Assistant job description was reviewed. This will go in the paper on May 14th and 21st. The board can schedule appointments at a later date. Robert made motion to adopt the job description, seconded by Doon. So voted.

Discussion ensued about changing the next meeting date as the 25th is Memorial Day. It was decided to have it on Monday, June 1st.

Policy Information-tabled.

Payroll dates: Robert asked if payroll dates can be changed to every other week instead of every week.

Doon made motion to enter executive session at 9:15 pm and invited Jeannette Bair to discuss a personnel issue. Exited at 9:30 pm. No action taken.

Bills reviewed and warrants signed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell