Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

January 9, 2017

Present: Robert Meagher, Jim Bowen, Doon Hinderyckx (by phone)

Guests: Nancy Woolley, Martha Slater, Dan Gendron, Liz Steventon, Frank Russell, Sean Lenihan, Joan Allen

 Robert called the meeting called to order at 6:15 pm.

Jim made motion to approve the minutes from December 26, 2016.

Guests: Frank Russell spoke to the board again about the articles of Agreement for the PK-12 Study committee. He informed the board that the next meeting will be January 12th in South Royalton. Barb DeHart, Public Funds Trustee has provided information about the school trusts. He thanked Martha for her reporting of the study committee. Discussion continued regarding the articles of agreement to be updated, and upcoming meetings.

New Business: Joan gave the board the resolution to accept terms of the VACCD grant for Park House. She has been discussing the resolution with Evan Chadwick who has not had any adverse comments. Doon made motion to execute the grant agreement resolution, seconded by Robert. Robert and Jim both signed the resolution for the grant for the next phase of the Park House upgrades.

Certificate of Highway Mileage report: No changes have been made to any road mileage in the past year. Robert made motion to execute the report, seconded by Jim. So voted. Robert and Jim reviewed the report and signed.

Old Business: The Highway Bridge Weight Restriction Filings are due by February 10, 2017. Robert noted that he will take care of this when he returns from vacation on January 24th.

Joan explained the upcoming steps that will take place with the Park House grant. She met with Julie and Amy Wright today. The majority of management functions will be dealt with by the Park House. There will be a “closing” during the week of January 23, 2017 and work should begin after that. A mortgage to the town will be granted by the Park House that will protect the town if by chance Park House should default. Any additional audit and/or personnel charges will be reimbursed.

New Park: Joan noted that she met with Michael Hildebrand regarding revisions to the structures on the new park. New schedule will include non-mandatory site visit on January 16, 2017 at 11:00 am. Bid opening will be on February 8, 2017 at the town office at 2:00 pm. Joan asked about applying for grants for design work on culverts at Middle Hollow Rd and Cushman Rd. One grant was received from the Better Back Roads grant program in the amount of $8000. She would like to apply again to see if we can get a grant for the other culvert in the amount of $12000.00. Robert agreed she should re-apply. Short discussion ensued about municipal roads permit. Joan noted that there will be a webinar about this coming up. The permit process will be finalized this winter for FY18-FY21, and the cost would be in the $ $2400 range. Grant money may be available.

EC Fiber expects to be working in Rochester sometime this summer. They will provide service along Rt 100. She discussed accessing the village for upgrading as well, and suggested that the board discuss with the town representative. EC Fiber needs to hear from people that they want the service in order for them to fulfill it. Short discussion ensued. Joan will talk to them in the spring about service and possible phone services for town entities.

Jim asked about the driveway cut permit for the Park and Ride, Joan will follow up on it.

Sean Lenihan spoke as an employee of the Rochester School, and he noted his concern about the direction the study committee is moving in. He questions the longevity of the town and what we want that town to be. If we give away the middle and high school, he feels that the elementary school will close eventually. It may force families to move away from Rochester in order to be close to their children. The more people he talks to, the more opinions he hears that this is not just a school issue but also a town issue, and is voicing his concerns to begin the conversation. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Bills reviewed, warrants signed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell