

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2020

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey (absent)

Guests: Martha Slater, Dillon Dudley, Tony Goupee, John Champion, Terry Severy, Walt Wells, Nancy Woolley, Mason Wade, Harland McKirryher, Lois Bond, Barb Dehart, Susan Morse

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the agenda: Harland-missing book; Mason- announcement towards the end of the meeting.

Tom made a motion to approve the December 23 Selectboard minutes and Pat seconded, all in favor. So, voted. Doon made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23 selectboard meeting. Tom seconded, all in favor. So, voted. Pat made a comment to a correction on Orca media that a statement was made incorrectly. The statement made was that the Budget and Finance had a closed meeting. She noted that statement was made incorrectly. She noted Budget and Finance meetings are open meetings and they are conformed to open meeting laws and they are all duly warned.

Doon invited Mason to speak on treatment of Public documents. Mason wanted to discuss a policy of town records. Doon noted that we must conform to state rules about that. Doon noted we must comply to the VSA 9 2440. Mason felt that the usage of cell phones or other electronic devises shouldn't be used to copy documents. His feelings are that if someone wants a copy it should be dated and signed off by the town clerk. Tom asked what records Mason was referring to. Mason noted any records that are for the purpose of obtaining. Tom gave the example of wanting a copy of a tax map. Tom asked what the harm would be in photographing the tax map. He noted a lot of towns have them online. Tom noted that a lot of records are public record. Discussion ensued about the documents and how they are requested even by email. Mason moved on to the security of cyber and hacking concerns. Tom noted that there are precautions put in place to prevent that. Tom noted he did not see the security risk of public records getting propagated. He noted that he does however see a computer system getting hacked. He noted there is a difference. Doon summarized Masons request as not allowing people to take photos of town records. Mason noted he just wanted to have discussion. Doon noted with the use of photographing town documents can be further researched and report back.

Library Updates: Tony thanked Patty for attending the last Library Trustee's meeting. Tony noted that last week there was a presentation of a film presented by Rob and Char Gardner on Islamic art and culture. He noted that Jeanette is working on a lending Library of things. He noted that it is in the beginning stages. He noted that there will be a film showing of Suppressed with discussion afterwards.

Highway Update: John noted we will be without a truck for a couple weeks. Truck had damage to the plow frame and radiator from past storm. He noted the truck is heading out for repair.

Utilities: Terry spoke about the water sub-pump issue putting a surcharge on the system. He noted he would like to know who it would be so he could help make suggestions to fix the problem. Doon noted perhaps putting a note in with the next billing of water bills.

New Business: Doon noted that we will now fill the position of the town constable in name only. He noted that the Windsor County Sheriff will still provide the law enforcement end of things in our town.

He noted that Dillon Dudley will be filling in that position. Nancy asked if that position will include the responsibility of animal control and humane officer. Doon noted that they would not be included at this time. Doon noted that we are required by state law to have that position filled. Doon moved to appoint Dillon. Tom seconded, all in favor. So, voted.

Doon moved to approve the FY21 budget to present to the voters at the Town Meeting. Tom seconded, all in favor. So, voted. Doon noted that the tax rate is increased to 3.6 percent, and a budget of \$ 1,088,700.00 of which \$780,550.00 are to be raised by taxes. Doon noted that the overall budget went up around 8% but was able to keep the tax hike lower even though the costs to run the town did increase. Doon noted by not adding any funds this year to any of the Reserve Funds and taking money from the Highway Fund to pay off the Town loader, allowed them to keep the tax rate down. Doon spoke about how the Recycling budget would increase and it would be separated out of the budget and allow the voters to make the choice of what they would approve to pay. Nancy noted that there are two other items as well that were determining factors to keep the budget down and they were WRVA and the Library as articles to be voted on during the Town meeting. She also noted it did not include any Appropriations from non-profit agencies as well.

Doon noted an approval for an application for a Class 4 Road Winter maintenance from Kenny Beattie. Doon moved to approve that. Tom seconded, all in favor. So, voted.

Tom Made a motion to approve funding for some new computers for the Town Office as well as a new server. He noted it would cost about \$3,700.00. Doon seconded, all in favor. So, voted. Tom noted the costs would include a new server, computers and monitors and associated hardware accessories. Tom noted that the Town's computer system needs serious upgrades.

Doon noted to Harland that he had no new information to report on the missing book. Tom noted that he had spoken with Jeff Brown about going downstairs in the American Legion room to inspect. Harland asked Nancy about inspecting some microfilm. Nancy said she will go back up at a future date to inspect some new released films.

Susan Morse spoke about her disappointment about how Mason was spoke to at the last meeting. She felt that people need to come to meetings and be comfortable to speak.

Doon motioned to end the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith