

Pre Town Meeting/Selectboard Meeting

February 26, 2018

6:15 pm

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen, Tom Schnabel

Guests: Susie Smolen, Bud Venturini, Joan Allen, Martha Slater, Nancy Woolley, Keefer Irwin, Walt Wells, Terry Severy, Cheryl & Ray Harvey, Susan Morse, Pat & Dave Harvey, Lois Bond, Dan Gendron, Harland Mckirryher, Rod & Linda Leehy, Barb DeHart, Mike McIntyre

Doon called Pre Town Meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Posting requirements of this meeting was verified.

Town meeting will be Monday, March 5th in the auditorium at 7:00 pm. Comments on the beautiful town report were made, and Joanne thanked Nancy Woolley for such a good job. Walt asked about the property transfers that were reported and asked about the dates. Joanne explained that these are run on calendar year. He asked about the transfer for a town piece of property and where it would show as income to the town. This quit claim was a legal requirement to clear a lease from the Martin Bowen camp. Martin had to pay \$333.33 to the town to clear the lease and it was supposed to be invested in trust funds. Frank asked if Jim planned to run again, he plans to. Harland asked how selling \$333.33 per year lease benefits the town. Discussion ensued. Joanne will research and respond. Susan Morse commented that she feels the Selectboard report is misleading. It did not mention the number of people who signed the petitions for Pine Gap Rd. Also, the road has not been used in 40 years. She also felt that by mentioning Mason's lawsuit that he was being singled out, and she wishes all parties had put more effort into talking to one another. Doon explained that the report was written in the clearest way to explain the facts. Harland noted that he wanted to clear a discrepancy that has been going around which is the petitioners are the instigators of this whole problem. They were living their lives, going about their business for the last 40, 50, 60 years and this nice couple moved in and told them how their lives were going to change. He doesn't see this as being neighborly. The initial action is from the nice young couple, they just responded. Mason noted that article 3 missed the second part of the petition. He wanted the additional two members to be voted on under the final article of other business. Doon explained that it would not be legal to do it as the petition was worded. If it passes, the votes will happen right then. Pre Town Meeting closed at 6:30 pm.

Selectboard Meeting: Additions to the Agenda: Joanne asked to have in the minutes board approval to reopen the dormant Tennis Reserve Account. Terry wants to talk about the fire truck. Ray asked about Bethel Mtn Rd posting-is the board planning to move on it. Rod Leehy has a comment and a question, Mike McIntyre asked about posting the roads since he has timber to get off the landing, Susie would like to talk about sidewalks, Frank asked about charging stations for electric vehicles.

Doon explained that charging stations is part of the next phase of a grant we are looking at for the Park & Ride. Ray Harvey noted they received the excess weight permit back, and noted that if someone needed to do something in North Hollow, they might be upset about truck traffic being re-routed through those roads. Discussion ensued. Dan noted that lower Bethel Mtn Rd is going over the bank. We are looking for grant money to fix the road, it will not be closed, we are trying to protect the road by

avoiding use by trucks over 24,000 pounds. Discussion continued. Cheryl noted that it is mostly out of state cars that create mountain travel, and maybe the State could do a count of cars to see how many vehicles use it. That might get the project onto the front burner with the State. Dan reiterated that he prefers no large trucks use the road until it is fixed. Mike McIntyre explained that he has to get his logs off the landing and needs to do it before the mills are full. Dan told Mike to have his trucker start in the morning since the roads are still frozen. Terry noted that several firemen are going to PA to look at the fire truck on Saturday. Right now we are first in line, but two other companies are waiting to look as well. The board may have to have a special meeting to sign paperwork. Doon made motion to allow Terry Severy/Fire Dept. to commit to the truck if they feel it is a good purchase. Jim seconded, so voted. Joanne noted that in order to reinstate the dormant Tennis Reserve account the board needs to approve this in the minutes and Doon needs to sign the forms for the Credit Union. Doon made motion to reinstate the reserve account, seconded by Jim. So voted. Doon also noted that the sidewalks are in need much attention! We already did a scoping study, now they need rebuilding. Susie noted that from School Street to the Park, the sidewalk is nonexistent. Discussion ensued. Joan noted that the stormwater master plan will be completed in August and this has to be done first. She has a call in to Bethel, but they have had a change in administration and need to research who did the job and if they had grants. Lengthy discussion ensued. Rod Leehy thanked the board for clarifying the confusion regarding maintenance of Bingo Road. There have been several young families and dogs enjoying the area who have mentioned how nice it is to have the area to walk on flat sanded road that doesn't have a lot of traffic. He feels it is important to acknowledge that the area is important to the recreation of the town. He asked for a public update for any approved work plans for Pine Gap Rd. Doon explained that there are no agreements at this time. Rod gave the board photos of the water runoff on the road. He took these photos on February 20th that show significant runoff.

Guests: Frank read the articles of agreement that specifically mentions school property. The unified district assumes all capital and properties to be transferred to the district by June 30, 2018. He has been working on this, and explained that it is possible that the Daycare building will not be sold by then. Lengthy discussion ensued. The school forest property is listed in the "property to be transferred" on Frank's handout, but he does not believe it will be transferred based on the wording of the deed. Frank wondered if the property should be sold to the town.

Joan informed the board that the Wastewater upgrade project will have a project contract signing here on March 19th with Hebert Construction. We received a grant for the FY 19 BBR grant for road erosion inventory which is the first step in the road inventory project. TRORC will manage the project. Notice of the annual meeting with VTRANS for the annual budgeting has been received and will need to be scheduled. She has talked with Dan about possible structures grants and possibly a retaining wall on Bethel Mtn Rd which has been turned down twice. Dan informed Joan of the need for a retaining wall on Buttles Rd as well. Also the municipal Roads general permit is ramping up.

Highway: Dan gave the board the one quote he has received for a truck to replace the 550. Ted Green Ford quoted \$11,571.00 with the trade in, and the body is quoted at \$45064.00. None of the other dealers in the area will give a quote. He asked for 4 bids, and received one which is a better price than expected. Jim made motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Tom. So voted.

Utility: Nothing new. Short discussion about what might happen if Site 4 fails ensued.

New Business: Joanne asked the board to sign the Records Management Policy for the Town. All Vermont public agencies are required to have one. Secure Shred will be coming on March 30th to begin clearing the old outdated records from downstairs. Doon made motion to approve the policy, seconded by Jim. So voted.

Nancy McIntyre has asked for No Passing signs on the stretch of road on Bethel Mtn. There have been several close calls with them coming out of their driveway and people pulling out to pass vehicles on that stretch. This is something that will have to be discussed with the State. The state were supposed to have put up new signage on Bethel Mtn Rd several years ago, but it hasn't happened. Joan will check with Rita Seto from TRORC to see if she has any further information.

Bills were reviewed, warrants signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell