

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

February 27, 2017

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

Guests: Terisa Thomas, Tom Brown, Bob Fitch-Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Dan Gendron, Martha Slater, Juli Reiderer, Lucia Perry, Kelly & Tim Bowen, Terry Severy, Nancy Woolley, John Allen, Lois Bond, Evelyn Pruiksma, Barb DeHart, Tom Pierce

Doon called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm and opened Pre Town Meeting.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Doon asked that the people here from DEC be allowed to speak first since they have a way to travel.

Terisa Thomas introduced herself as the Water Infrastructure Supervisor for the Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Tom Brown and Bob Fitch are new people in her office and came with her. She has been in touch with John Ashley from Dubois & King regarding the need for rebuilding Site 3. Terisa explained that there are three steps in the loan process. 1) = planning; 2) = engineering details, plans; 3) = construction. She reiterated that this is a loan program, not grant funding. They also have a subsidy or loan forgiveness that can forgive up to 50% of the planning or engineering costs. So the Town would take a loan (0% interest) for the full amount needed, but we will only repay ½ of the total cost. They allow 5 years before the loan would have to go back into repayment. Terisa noted that right now there is plenty of money to give out for loans as there is no competition for the funds this year. If the project is completed, we have two years to begin repayment. Doon asked if the construction phase also has loan forgiveness. Terisa said yes, there was some extra money not being utilized, so she restructured the rule. Therefore we will fall into the loan forgiveness criteria for all three phases of the loan. After the two year time period, we will pay 2% admin charges (interest). They used an affordability structure of median household income below the state average can be forgiven up to 50%. The total cost is estimated at about \$360,000.00 so we would be forgiven \$180,000.00. This is time sensitive! Joan has done the initial legwork to hire an engineer, but the bonding process takes longer and should be started now. Terisa will propose that the subsidy stays the same for the next fiscal year as well, but it is getting competitive. Loan repayment can be up to 30 years, but is usually 20 years. She recommended hiring the engineer and getting the process started. They will have to work fast to get a preliminary engineering report done and then a final design. The construction portion will need a bond vote to proceed. In a perfect world, we would want the engineering done by June. Then we will apply for the construction subsidy right away. Terisa said that the bond does not have to be done by June 30, but again time is of the essence in order to get the construction loan moving. Terisa will also look to see if we would qualify for any of the limited grants the board thanked Terisa for the great information.

Pre Town Meeting reconvened at 6:40 pm. John Allen asked about the summary report in the town report. In FY 17, we had a budget amount of 1,199,542 but we voted on just over 1 million last year with 669000 to be raised by taxes. On this summary, it shows 852425.00. By his math, this is a 24% increase.

Joanne thought it might be that the numbers for FY 17 did not reflect the 5% decrease that was voted last year. Discussion ensued. All agreed that the numbers in Article 7 included the appropriations and voted articles and should not. Therefore, Article 7 will have to be amended at Town Meeting. Nancy took this moment to inform everyone present that all departments worked very hard and took as much of a reduction as possible with the last two budgets.

Doon had a thought that we should look into the possibility of turning Middle Hollow Rd from North Hollow to Mountain View Acres back to gravel which would reduce the cost of paving, which is about \$20/foot. We could use the reclaimed asphalt on that road, or elsewhere.

Nancy brought up the article about recycling costs. It was broken out as an article since the cost has increased up to \$14,400. It is a wonderful service, but the board felt that the taxpayers should make that decision. Even though recycling is state mandated, we pay the Royalton/Bethel Landfill each year so people would need to bring their recyclables to Royalton.

John Allen asked if it would be possible to have the budget projected and a running total that would update with each passing article.

Joanne noted that she had mistakenly believed that the Town could use the State Reappraisal funds (approximately \$8000) to offset taxes. However, by statute, those funds can only be used for reappraisals.

Pre Town Meeting ended at 7:08 pm

Selectboard Meeting began at 7:08 pm.

Guests: Juli Reiderer explained the renovations at the Park House have come up against two problems. The water supply line at the Park House is not big enough for a sprinkler system and needs to be bigger. There would need to be a road cut across Park Row in order to replace the water pipe. Also there is a drainage problem in the basement. As the ground has begun to slope toward the building, water collects in the basement. Their engineer suggested adding a second catch basin to alleviate that problem. This work would be done between the kitchen door and the door just to the east. However, it encroaches on town property and will disturb the sidewalk. Evelyn asked since Park Row slants toward the Park House without adequate drainage, how much responsibility belongs to the Town, and how much to Park House. She asked if the Town could partner with them and share costs. Terry noted that a 4" main would be needed. Discussion ensued. Doon agreed that something has to be done with the sidewalks in town, and asked if they planned to use the existing catch basin or build a new one. Juli noted that one will be added. Robert noted that the sidewalk study had proposed putting in green stations in areas such as this. Evelyn also noted that there is a safety issue for their patrons walking toward town. Discussion continued. Juli noted that the construction contract has been signed, and this project is part of it. Park House will be in touch with the board as they may need to spend the grant money on this part of the project sooner than later. They will forward the plans to the board.

The sidewalk study came in at about \$650,000 to complete the total project as designed. Tim Bowen asked why we would spend that much money on new sidewalks when we should take care of the ones we have. Short discussion ensued. Robert noted that the next step would be the design phase. Sidewalks in town definitely need attention. Doon noted that there may be grants available to cut our sidewalk costs to closer to \$150,000. The spot at the Park House was pointed out as a problem area.

Terry asked who is going to maintain the sidewalks and what will it cost. He believes it will cost about \$40-\$50,000 more per year for maintenance of the proposed green spaces. Discussion ensued.

Joan's updates: Joan noted that she received a proposal from Cricket McCusker to prepare an RFQ for advertising for engineers for the wastewater project. We need three responses. Also, Dubois and King forwarded an amended contract that needs to be signed. The original contract expired, and the project will cost \$1250 more. Doon made motion to approve, Robert seconded. So voted. The color of the roof of the pavilion was discussed. The firehouse roof is a gray color. Red would make the building stand out on both. Terry noted that red is more expensive. Since it will be paid through the grant, the board agreed to go with red roofing on the buildings. Terry asked where the outhouse will go and stated that a lot of people are not happy with it and wanted to know why it had to be there. He asked if it could go at the town garage. He also informed the board that it would be sitting over a sewer main. He said there was a lot of opposition to the portapotty being placed where it is scheduled to go at the last fire meeting. Doon noted that this project has been in the works for a couple years now. Discussion continued. Doon explained that we have gone to bid and accepted bids which include the portapotty. We don't have the option to just remove the structure now. It has to be near the parking places for handicap accessibility, and it will be screened in so it looks better and has some privacy for changing clothes. Terry will have a letter signed by 4% of the voters and will ask them all to attend the next meeting. Robert asked him to think about other ways to accomplish having a beautiful firehouse and also a park that people can enjoy. Doon noted that the work has to be completed by June 30th and we will not be slowing the progress at this point since it's been years in the making.

New Business: Doon made motion to approve a liquor license for Sherman V Allen, seconded by Robert, so voted.

Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the 2/13/17 meeting, seconded by Robert. So voted.

Doon made motion to re-appoint John White as EC Fiber representative for Rochester, seconded by Robert. So voted.

The annual 100 on 100 road race is scheduled for August 12, 2017. Doon made motion to approve, seconded by Robert. So voted.

The Farm to Fork Fondo race notified the board that they will be coming through town on July 16, 2017.

Joan asked Robert to respond to her email about safety related projects as soon as he can.

Martha noted that the March 27th meeting coincides with the annual School meeting. The board agreed to change their meeting to 5:00 pm on the 27th. Joan will invite Chris Mattrick to attend.

Bills reviewed and warrants signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell