

Selectboard meeting

Unapproved Minutes

March 27, 2017, 5:00 pm

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen, Tom Schnabel, Joan Allen, Joanne McDonnell

Guests: Nancy Woolley, Terry Severy, Dan Gendron, Mark Belisle, Barb DeHart, Dennis Rhoades, Tim & Kelly Bowen, Larry Creech, Bruce McCullough, Chris Blanchard, Chris Mattrick, Jeannette Bair

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting, seconded by Jim. So voted. Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2017 special meeting, seconded by Jim. So voted

Adjustments to agenda: Tom asked to review timesheets. Mason would like to discuss the relationship between the town and school budgets. Jeannette would like to discuss phones, Larry Creech would like to discuss the West Hill Bridge.

Jeannette asked about the status of the phone system. She is waiting for caller ID. Doon noted that we are waiting for response from EC Fiber who is bringing their lines into town, so it may not happen as soon as she would like. There is no contract with the existing phone system, and hopefully this will be completed by summer. Jeannette would like to see minutes from other entities in town such as budget and finance on the website.

Mason noted that he found two things in the school report that should be of interest to the town. The assets report has been deleted, as well as the mission statement. Any long term plan for renovation and sustainability for the property is missing. He also submitted a petition to the school board that was to be on the warning for tonight's annual meeting, but the school board entered executive session with a lawyer paid by the SU and came out to decline to add the petition to the warning. He believes that petitions are to be publicly warned, and the board no longer prints warnings in the paper. He questions how voters are to get information. Doon noted that there is a disconnect between the Town and the School, and these questions should be brought up at the annual school meeting tonight. Possibly there should be more interaction between the school board and Selectboard. Discussion ensued. Mason asked if it is a conflict of interest to have an SU attorney decline a town petition. Further discussion ensued, and Mason will bring these questions to the School Board at the meeting.

Tom noted that he has been working on the personnel policy with Nancy Woolley and it will be edited and forwarded to the board, then VLCT to review. He has some questions on the revised timesheets that Robert worked on, but would still like to see one for all departments. Short discussion ensued. Dan and Terry will review as well.

Utilities: Terry will be meeting with Mosher at the Park House to look into the storm drains on Monday morning.

Constables: Nothing new

Larry Creech expressed his concerns about the West Hill Bridge. Access for residents is limited and could cause delays in deliveries by trucks that are overweight. Residents are concerned about safety, although fire trucks and ambulances use the road regardless of the 16,000 lb. weight restriction. He and the other resident taxpayers would like the bridge to be updated at some point in the future. Future construction is on hold. They would like to have the bridge be strengthened while at the same time realizing that there is not a lot of money available to do the work. Larry feels that the weight limit on the bridge has been ignored by everyone for years. Doon noted that for construction projects, it would be possible to buttress the bridge with engineering. Bruce asked who would be responsible for the engineering part of that, and Doon noted that this would likely be initiated by the landowner. Chris Blanchard is looking for a variance to a weight permit. He had requested one from the Town Office but never received it. Short discussion ensued. Larry would like to find out if there are any grants available that might help with the cost, and also noted that there have been fully loaded log trucks going over the bridge. He submitted a letter from one resident, Steve Forrest to be included with the minutes. Doon agreed that the situation is in the board's attention, but that it will take some time.

Joan had no updates.

Mason asked about the Site 3 repair project-do the village water sewer users pay for this or do all taxpayers. It was noted that all taxpayers share the cost since this is a capital asset of the town. The estimated cost could be around \$350,000-\$400,000 and we will be responsible for half. Mason asked if there were any thoughts of new ways to fix this. Doon noted that the funding locks us into status quo. Mason asked why we can't route it into site 4 and pump it out for now which would give the board time to investigate new ideas and systems. Discussion continued. Jim noted that we are applying for state money now and will cut our costs in half. Terry agreed that a leach field would last 30 or so years, but it can't be in the flood plain. Mason asked if the state is so concerned about water quality, wouldn't they want to look further into this situation? Short discussion continued.

Chris Mattrick from the USFS spoke to the board about the Robinson Integrated Resource meeting about a year ago, and he noted that they have refined projects. This will be rolled out on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Rochester School gymnasium. Lots of new opportunities will be coming up, and he gave some general information handouts.

Chris also explained that the USFS would like to do some logging on West Hill Rd property. Unfortunately the bridge is not rated for the weight. There is a federal program called Forest Land Access Project which provides federal money to improve local access to federal lands and would cover bridge replacement. This is an 80/20 match project, and Chris noted that possibly the forest service could help provide some of the match funds. However, the projects for FY 17 and FY 18 are already awarded. RFP's are due around August and there is a good chance that we would be granted the money.

Chris also noted that the FY 17 PILT should be \$30,816.00

The board noted that the time of the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will also be at 5:00 pm due to the School consolidation vote informational meeting.

Mason asked the board to review the need for grand jurors next year. Jeannette asked what meeting minutes should be posted on the website and Joanne will ask Norm to add categories.

Doon made motion to sign liquor licenses for Sandy's Bakery and School Street Bistro, seconded by Jim.  
So voted.

Bills were reviewed, warrants signed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell