

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

May 22, 2017

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen, Tom Schnabel

Guests: Marilyn Dougherty, Kevin Bagley, Richard Poole, Bruce Hyde, Sean Linskey, Ken Beattie, Nancy Beattie, Norm Arseneault, Thomas & Jacqueline Hammond, Dicken Lary-Granville residents/Selectboard; Greg Russ-White River Partnership; Terry Severy, Bruce Flewelling, Mason Wade, Janice Brown, Marv & Barb Harvey, Martha Slater, Nancy Woolley-Rochester residents; Joan Allen Admin Assistant

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

Additions to Agenda: Jola Labejsza asked to add the Library building ownership; Mason asked to have the Bingo Road issue he discussed last meeting added.

Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2017 meeting, seconded. So voted.

He moved down to New Business to open the bids for the Marine Hill Culvert replacement. The only bid received was from Hebert Excavation Corp bid a total of amount of \$258,351.00. Greg Russ noted that he will review the bid and will get back to the board about the results.

Guests: Bruce Hyde, Sean Linskey and Richard Poole, Granville Selectboard came to discuss Buttles Road. After Irene, the road was upgraded in order to allow traffic to pass since Churchville Road was damaged in the storm. They feel strongly that this road has to stay open. He turned it over to Nancy Beattie and Norm Arseneault to give further details. Nancy Beattie discussed her findings with the Selectboard, but first asked to make a public comment. She often hears that this road issue is between Nancy Beattie and Deb & Bill Matthews, but it is not. It is Matthews's vs the towns of Rochester, Hancock and Granville. She gave details about the evidence she presented and feels quite sure that in 1948 in order to discontinue that road in question, Rochester would have had to have notified and been approved by Addison County and the Supreme Court. Robson property is now owned by Ray & Cheryl Harvey. Robson owned in 1948, and they were not contacted about discontinuing a road. Manning-1948-their property was directly across from Grisman's, and they should have been contacted. The Grisman's were contacted, but Manning's were not. She stands behind the evidence she has presented. Norm Arseneault noted that Nancy has done extensive research on this project. When a discontinuance is done, adjoining landowners must be notified. Buttles Rd in both Granville and Rochester were created on the same day in 1858 which shows there was cooperation between the Selectboards of both towns at that time. He has never found documentation where Buttles Rd was discontinued in Granville. He explained that on some town highway maps the standards change, which is why some roads showed on a map one year but not the next. This is not a discontinuance. The Town of Granville would have been notified if Buttles Road was thrown up in 1948. He believes as Nancy does that the Buttles Road was not discontinued, but the Rochester road leading northerly over to Town Line Road was. Nancy explained that she has owned the property since 1998 and always believed it to be an open road. Discussion ensued about the condition of and use of the road prior to Irene. Doon explained that he feels pretty comfortable that for the public good the road should stay open and does not see compelling evidence

that it was discontinued. Tom Schnabel as the newest Selectboard member still would Tom noted that thus far, in his opinion the road was not discontinued, but would like to spend a little more time reviewing the evidence before a final decision is made. Jim noted that not making a decision is not the correct way to go, but he does not want to make the wrong decision either. Lengthy discussion continued. The board agreed to hold off until the next Selectboard meeting to finalize discussion on the issue. Tom asked to schedule a special Selectboard meeting after he has the time to look over the documents.

Mason spoke about the Bingo Road issue (Mahar use of ATV and/or snowmobile). Janice Brown stated that she did not know anything about it. Mason noted that at the last meeting, the board said they did not receive notice either so he feels there is a “disconnect” between the federal and local governments. What is the town policy for TH42, and is it in writing. Will the policy be changed? This will take care of the issue for the residents. Doon noted that at this time, the road is not plowed that far out but if someone moved to that area the town would need to. He sent an email to the USFS that this was a surprise to the Selectboard, and that they should possibly continue the comment period. Discussion ensued. Doon noted that there is no plan to change policies if they exist at this time. The owner of the property has not contacted the board about this request at this time. Discussion continued. Bruce Flewelling noted that the Forest Service will not issue tickets on town roads, nor did he ever see a forest order to close that road. Janice noted that the gate is past the four corners, which is where the Mahars are petitioning the USFS to use motorized vehicles. Nothing will change at this time. Mason asked that the neighbors be notified if a request comes to the board. Bruce noted that there are some errors on the town highway maps and offered to work with the Selectboard before the next highway certification is due.

Doon told Mason that he spoke with the Secretary of State’s office about how the petition was handled that was submitted for the annual School District Meeting in March of 2017. He has not yet heard back from them. Mason questioned if it was noted in the minutes that Doon would contact the Secretary of State office, which it was.

Marvin Harvey spoke about storm drainage in the middle of town by the Park House. There are several catch basins that dump into one area behind the Bean House on the Graham/Frock property. Doon explained that that drain was cleared and jetted last week, but Marv explained that it is eroding part of their lawn. Doon spoke with Dan about getting some fill into the eroding area. Discussion ensued. The board will contact Chris Bump. Doon also noted that the drainage work done by the State north of town was not well done. At the time, we requested some improvements be done to the system but the State would only repair what was broken and would not make any changes to the drainage system. The board will be meeting with stormwater personnel as soon as the date can be scheduled. Discussion ensued. Joan asked Marvin to come with a list of items to add when she does her updates.

Jola Labejsza, Library Trustee asked the board about the ownership of the Library building. It is owned by the Trustees at this time, and has been a topic of discussion for a couple years. The Trustees all agree to turn over the ownership to the Town. Doon explained that there has not been a lawyer hired to review this at this time. Jim noted that this will not be an easy transfer, and the board has hoped to work through the Oak Lodge Road issue first since we will be over budget on legal fees. Discussion ensued about the terms of the deed that was dated sometime in the 1930’s. Marv reminded the board that he asked if the board would accept a deed from the Trustees giving over ownership. The board has

not responded to him yet. Doon would prefer to have legal counsel on the issue. He asked why the original owners gave the property to the Trustees instead of the Town back in the 1930's, but no one knows. Nancy noted that the deed deals only with the building, and the Library itself is operated by statute through the Trustees. Discussion continued.

New Business: The board approved three Park Use forms-Graduation on June 10, July 4th Parade on July 4, and Harvest Fair on September 9, 2017.

Old Business: EC Fiber conversion: Review of the proposed costs for EC Fiber ensued. Doon made motion to convert our phone and internet systems to EC Fiber from Fairpoint and AT&T, seconded by Jim. So voted.

Last meeting the board discussed the maintenance contract on the generator at the elementary school. A letter was sent back to the board stating support on that equipment is no longer available, but that Brook Field Services would credit the town \$750 to offset any future costs. Short discussion ensued. Tom will check into the support issue.

TRORC Rep: Meetings are the 4th Wednesday each month, Jim will not be able to do the June meeting but can attend the others and will act as rep. Doon will fill in when he cannot if possible.

Joan's updates: She would like to change the date for the informational meeting for the sewer bond vote to Monday June 12th instead of Tuesday June 13th before the Selectboard meeting. Meeting can start at 6:00 pm. She will change the dates on the warnings and let D&K know. There was a meeting with the engineering people at D&K, Terry and Jim Bowen this morning. She explained the phases of completion and the timing of those phases. They are trying to fast track the project. Terry and Jim will hopefully be able to meet again Friday at 1pm, and Monday June 6th is the next meeting at 8am. Joan will submit the next loan application next week. Dubois & King is hoping to have a final engineering design finished sometime in September. The plan is for the bidding will be done in September, and construction in October. Joan noted that in the event the bond vote needs to be redone, Tom Brown told her that as long as we have all our information prepared and in line by the end of July, we will qualify for the fund forgiveness.

Marvin noted that Joan had asked him to discuss Fairpoint not moving their poles from Rt 100. He would like them to be asked to move their lines onto the poles that replaced them so the old poles can be replaced. Possibly Joan could be the contact person for this venture. Marv would like the board to request this change. Short discussion ensued.

Marv also noted that the back roads are in poor condition. The rains have caused more problems with sod being removed into the ditches. There is also a water bar below his home that is causing problems for vehicles. He suggested Doon take a ride to see what he means.

Water/Sewer: Terry informed the board that he will be digging test holes at Site 3 on Wednesday. He will talk to Mike Bowen about storing waste dirt and rock from the construction project, which will save the town money in the bidding process. Short discussion ensued.

Bills were reviewed, warrants signed. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted, Joanne McDonnell

