

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Mason Wade with Orca Media, Tony Goupee, John Champion, Terry Severy, Mike Chamberland, Walt Wells, Bruce Flewelling, Diane and Dick White, Bruce and Doreen Jones, Harland Mckirryher, Marvin and Barb Harvey, Claude Weyan, and Noel Smith

Doon called the meeting at 6:15pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the agenda: Mason-Minutes, Marvin-Flag display regulations, Frank-Civil Board of Authority & Diane White- Brook St. questions.

Doon introduced Mike Chamberland and Claude Weyan from the Windsor County Sheriff's Department. Doon noted that the contract has been reviewed by the Town Attorney. He noted that all parties agreed to the representation for the town's interest. He invited them to provide coverage for the town. Diane asked how soon they could start. Doon noted that they will begin their services for coverage during the 4th of July. Terry had expressed his concern of having traffic control for the parade. Doon noted that the Parade will begin around 11am. Mike noted that the contract would go into effect on July 1. Mike asked who they should get in contact with for the Parade coverage and where to set up. Terry noted that it would be best if they could provide traffic control on the North end of town near the Bank. Terry also noted that he would provide them with a hand-held radio to provide communication during the parade. Mike shared with the group about the background of his department and how Rochester is their 7th town that they have a contract with. He reiterated the concern of the town speeding issues. He noted that their services would cover the town's needs. He stated that at this time, they would provide two shifts a week. He voiced his concerns about the speeding on Brook St. and he was concerned about the tags on the speed limit signs on that road. He asked if they follow the Town Ordinances. He noted that if the speed limit hadn't been properly changed and filed with the Town's ordinance policies, any ticket written that went to court, would most likely not hold up in court and would be a waste of everyone's time. Mike asked that the town provide copies of the Town Ordinances. Doon asked as an example if someone were speeding at 50 mph and the sign states 25 mph would that ticket be accountable? Mike answered that if it went to court and the signs had been altered in any way, or didn't follow the Town's ordinance policy, the judge would most likely throw it out. Doon noted that currently the Town ordinance is 35 mph for back roads. Pat asked if there was a speed limit for speed bumps. Mike wasn't sure about that and would get back to the town. Mike confirmed that this may be an attorney question pertaining to liability. He suggested to reach out and ask these questions. Diane explained what had been happening on Brook St. with the speeding and large truck traffic. Discussion ensued and Doon motioned to sign the contract with Windsor County Sheriff's Department. The motion was seconded by Tom. So, voted.

Doon noted how he allowed Mike to speak first since they had traveled so far to attend the meeting.

Doon invited Mason to speak about his addition to the agenda prior to accepting the minutes from last week. Mason shared his thoughts about the unapproved minutes. He disagreed that the minutes were not accurate and complete about the Missing Book. Mason addressed how he felt that the board did make a pretty serious statement of how it wants to continue with he is missing book. He stated that the minutes are a critical way for all of us to understand our town governance. Doon re-read over the minutes and asked Wade if he didn't agree with the statement that we are continuing our search. Doon reiterated that we won't stop looking for the book. Discussion continued. Bruce made a statement that we have no proof that they ever existed. Bruce asked Mason if he could prove that those minutes ever existed. Doon made a motion to approve the minutes from June 10, 2019. Tom seconded. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Joan stated that FEMA will be having a briefing in Bethel. Joan stated that she will be attending. She noted that the briefing would have to do with handling of the paperwork. She stated how she was working with John to prepare and organize 5-24 FEMA sites for the bid packages. She noted that two more sites were just added and that some of the work may be done by the Town crew and will verify at the briefing. She noted that it would help John to decide which projects to put out to bid. Joan explained that she is working on a bid packet template that can be used over and over for future projects. Joan continued next discussing the Federal Highway Funds (Bethel Mountain Road) application was submitted in today for VTrans, which they will hold until the Federal Highway Administration issues the proclamation saying that they approve the project. She continued that once that is approved, we will be able to submit requisitions for payment so we can start getting progress payments on our expenses thus far and as construction continues. She stated that the estimate today is 2.163 million dollars and has added the estimated costs of the Upper Bethel Mountain Rd. which is now considered Site 2 of that project and is estimated at \$216,000.00. Frank asked about Two Rivers and VTrans and what their rolls were. Joan explained that Two Rivers was not involved at all in any of these projects. She noted that VTrans is the avenue that the state uses to work with the federal agency. Frank also asked if VTrans was mediation. Joan noted that they are guiding us through the project. Joan stated that the town doesn't deal directly with the federal agencies. She noted that VTrans doesn't work with any FEMA agencies. FEMA agencies are managed through a different State agency. Dick asked if we still have the four contractors lined up to bid on this. Joan stated that we had to withdraw that bid because we were a little premature and didn't know it at the time. She stated that we are still learning especially with the Federal Highway project. She noted that with the first round of bids including both FEMA projects and Federal Highway projects, they couldn't be combined. They both have to be separate bidding processes. She noted that in addition, the scope up there on the Upper Bethel Mountain road projects could be combined and funded by Federal Highway funds. Dick also asked if we were going to be able to get contractors to do the work now so late in the construction season. Joan stated that we sure hope so. Pat clarified that he was speaking of the Lower Bethel Mountain project and not the Upper. The Lower Bethel Mountain project will be secured by Dubois and King. Pat explained that 5-6 large Construction Companies were given an invitation to bid on the project, as a sort of save the date.

Joan explained that the bids will go out and the contractors will need some time to prepare their bids and submit them. Once the bids are reviewed by Dubois, VTrans will review for final approval and at that time the contractor will begin. She noted that it is all a very compressed time period. The Upper Bethel Mountain Road projects will go separately.

Joan went on to discuss the Grant and Aid Program through the State. She stated that she completed a reimbursement request for last year's project that has recently been completed on Marsh Brook Rd. She asked the board for their signatures to sign off on that. She went on to say that she is working on the Grant and Aid for 2020. She noted that it's not clear which project they would choose for the program. She noted that Bingo road had a project and didn't know if it were a much bigger project then the amount would allow. She asked the board for their signatures in order to submit. She stated that they amount of that program was around \$12,000.00.

Joan had one other discussion for private landowners that experienced flood damage in the April 15th storm. She noted to Doon that he sign a letter of interest from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program which is operated by the NRCS. Joan compiled a list of landowners that she was aware of that had experienced damage and may want to apply for the program. She noted that the Town would be required to put in 20%. It would be an arrangement made with the Town and not the private landowners. She ran through the list of names she compiled and sought for those she had missed.

Chris Mattrick spoke and made a statement about the speed bumps and how he hated them but that they were working to slow traffic down. He also added that the message boards were nice to see out and about. Chris noted his concern for the culvert on Brook St. He said it's about even with the road.

Doon noted that while we are talking about road signs, he had a request for a replacement of a road sign for Oak Lodge Rd., the one going to Fisk Rd. Doon stated that Ben Faulk is having enough events up there that we need to add to the list of signs to replace.

Highway Updates: John discussed the slide in Bingo. He also added that on Bethel Mountain is a culvert that needs to be replaced that will not be included in the storm funding. John noted it will need to be larger. Its currently a 32" and should be 48". Pat asked where it was located, and John stated its above Terry Severy's. John stated it was 70' long. Marvin asked John if Bethel Mountain road will be closed if they dig across to install culverts. John stated that Bethel Mountain is closed presently, and Joan added that when the culverts are replaced there will be flaggers up there. John stated that mowing roadsides will be done and if anyone wants to opt out, they will need to sign up for that.

Library Updates: Tony stated that the Trustees meeting will be moved up a week to July 2, at 5pm and the agendas will be posted.

Utility Updates: Terry stated that the hydrant was replaced and needed a 2' extension. He noted that it will be changed over and then they will be flushed. He stated that they will flush early on a Sunday morning before anyone gets up.

New Business: Doon stated that we are looking into borrowing additional money from Mascoma Bank in anticipation of grant receipts from April's storm to give us a little more room. Its in anticipation of FEMA money and Federal money.

Marvin spoke about the observation of how the flag arrangement behind the selectboard is incorrectly displayed. The board acted and moved the flags to the correct arrangement. Doon thanked Marvin for bringing it to their attention.

Frank spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the Road Commissioner and the Road Foreman. Frank thanked Pat with admiration for coming to his home to deliver the policy of the duties and responsibilities of the Road Commissioner. Frank read from the document about the selectboard appointing a member to become the Road Commissioner. Doon explained that they all work as a board together and that he is the figure head to interact with John. Frank was pleased that the State of Vermont had policies for the Road Commissioner. Doon added that we're really blessed to have a Road Foreman that is very capable. Doon stated that John is really the guy on the ground that is in touch. Frank was pleased. Frank asked if there were duties for the Foreman as well and Tom noted that he had a draft copy as a lot of policies currently are being revised. He noted that after reviewing the Road Foreman duties and responsibilities policy there were two exceptions to change. Frank thanked the board and said he would like a copy once the revisions are made.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith