

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

June 26, 2017

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen, Tom Schnabel

Guests: Dan Gendron, Mark Belisle, Martha Slater, Mason Wade, Robert Meagher, Dave & Patty Harvey, Terry Severy, Nancy Woolley, Marty Mahar, Kristen Casella

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm. Amendments to the agenda: Mason asked to talk about the school merger vote results and how it relates to the issues he and the board have been talking about regarding the petition. Patty would like to talk about the firehouse. Marty Mahar would like to speak about access to his camp in Bingo. Robert asked to add executive session regarding personnel.

Patty noted that they would like to know the status of the old firehouse, as they may be interested in purchasing. Doon explained that the board is not interested in selling at this time, and someone else has been working on permits for leasing.

Marty Mahar was welcomed. He purchased a camp in Bingo and has applied to the USFS for either ATV or snowmobile access. Marty explained that in summer, about 80-100 feet of road is not USFS road but the previous owner had a permit for access. When they bought the property, Marty had to reapply for that permit so decided to go with one permit that would cover all seasons. About a month ago, he received a response from the USFS stating that the Town wouldn't allow access from Harlan McKhyrre to the lower gate so they wouldn't consider the request. His understanding is that the lower gate is USFS jurisdiction. From that gate down is Town. He asked what the board's stance is regarding snowmobile use on town roads, and what decides where the town stops plowing the road. Where is the line that the road becomes a class 4 road? Doon responded that he does not know where the USFS got the information that the Town would not allow access. If someone moves onto that road, they have the right to ask the town to plow to their property, so Marty would be able to request that. Right now they will be visiting occasionally, not full time. Discussion ensued. It is class 3 up to the USFS road where it switches to class 4. Mason asked that the board share the letters of comment from the last meeting at this time. Doon asked Marty to be sensitive to the historical situation of recreational use. Marty noted that they never received a copy of the USFS public comment letter. He was told that 8 public comment letters were sent out, and 10 responses came back. The public comment period was extended, which was good. Mason noted that he asked for a letter of results but never received one, and Marty explained that the response he received was the 10 negative letters. They told him the negative feedback leads them to proceed with the

same permit that Smokey Bowen had off 62A. They will move forward with summer access and revisit the winter access after the Town makes their decision. Discussion continued. Marty explained that the winter use would be for access only, not for recreational snowmobiling, and offered to machine in from Harlan's house, but Doon did not feel that it would be wise to set a precedent by allowing snowmobiles on a class 3 road. The board will review with the Road Crew and respond to Marty.

Minutes from the June 12th 2017 meeting were reviewed. Doon asked for a correction to change some wording in the paragraph about the annual school meeting petition. The correction would be "it may not have been properly warned as executive session at that meeting, and possibly should have been addressed in open session" to "it may not have been proper to take this executive session at that meeting, and should have been addressed in open session". Joanne will correct. Doon made motion to approve with correction, and Mason told the board that he may have some information for the board before they approve. He said there are a couple statements in the minutes that are not true that relate to him. Again, Doon made motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded. So voted. Mason noted that the process of minute taking is historically what we do, and more and more as we go along webcam concepts are coming into communities all the time, and it's not something to laugh about because the interpretation of the minutes is an individual thing. We all do it in our own way, it's a story. And you guys (Selectboard) approve the story line which becomes the official record of which the townspeople have access to. The information in here for the town record was about 250 words, where on January 15th, the newspaper, our official newspaper, wrote only 37 words and it was difficult to understand. So when you have 200-almost 300 voters that voted no on that merger and they don't even know about this issue. It's just not out there and we've been working on this. So, anyhow, let me start by when the addition to the agenda states "regarding the school petition he submitted in February-March"-he was not the submitter. Joanne noted that he (Mason) was not the submitter, Joanne corrected the statement by saying that it was Nick was who submitted it for Mason. Mason stated that this is historical records, and also wasn't the sole author of the petitioned article. There is no way the voters even know that the petitioned article looked like except for the word vague. He thinks the petition should be included with the minutes so the voters can read it. Doon explained that the petition wasn't given to them at that meeting, and Mason responded that it is in the records. The voters don't know the information. When it comes to talking about executive session needing to have a reason stated-it's more than that. Mason said that executive session needs to have a reason stated before going into executive session, which was the legal issue. He's looking at this as a voter who is trying to understand what's going on, what's happening in all this process. Doon explained that this will be in the next meetings minutes. Joanne noted that she tapes this issue pretty much word for word and will again for this meeting. Mason also noted that in the minutes where he asked Doon to inform everyone about his call with SOS, the previous meeting May 22nd the board decided that the Chari would call the Sec of State and report back the results. He feels that the statement is too personal and is business of the Selectboard. A voter

going on the website to read this stuff is confusing. It's important for the board to look objectively from a voter's point of view reading the minutes. He is pointing these things out because he is here. Doon noted that Mason shouldn't be upset that his name is mentioned as he is the person who brought the information to the board. Mason noted that webcams give the opportunity to see what's going on in the meeting. Other communities have television shows, there are easy ways to do it. Start looking at what's going on in the community. Short discussion ensued. Nancy noted that the petition was accepted on behalf of the school, not the town. Mason asked who signed the petition-the voters. The registered voters signed the petition, for a school issue, not a town issue and that Mason has a problem with the school, not the town. Mason noted that he has a problem when the school is doing things improperly and that we have a communication problem. Doon asked Mason to please continue bringing these things to the board but for tonight it has been discussed enough. Mason noted he just wanted to bring these issues to the board's attention. Mason also wanted to discuss the school merger vote that just happened. With the information that the board now has in reference to how the school board conducted going into executive session and the voters not having the opportunity to have that article warranted, the responsibility of the Selectboard may very well be to represent the voters as they could have a special meeting about that petition. Doon noted that he believes that is the School board's job. Mason responded that he thinks we need some representatives for the voters out there. Jim asked if he has been back to talk to the school board yet, which Mason has not. He wanted to know what the town felt. He asked the board what they thought, and Jim responded that it needs to be brought to the school board and be clarified there. Doon noted it is kind of a dysfunctional relationship between the school board and Selectboard but it's nothing that will be changed right here. He noted that he attends school board meeting and gives input but that the Selectboard can't go to the school board and tell them what to do. Mason stated that he could inform the school board that what they did was illegal. Nancy noted that the school board are elected officials. Mason would like to see some onwardness. He asked if the 3 board members would be attending the school board meeting on Wednesday, but Joanne explained that there is a conflict with a town meeting.

Joan gave the board information about a road in aid project. It is a pilot project for towns to start preparing to meet the municipal road permit projects. There is a 20% match which can be in kind work. The town could qualify for a maximum of \$11040.00, and DEC will pay \$9200. This could be any size project, does not have to be the entire amount. Doon made motion to sign the application, seconded by Jim. So voted. Could be for road improvement or stormwater drainage. Doon asked Jim Brown for a quote for a flat vinyl sign for the kiosk at Riverbrook Park. He quoted \$250-300, and Doon asked Joan if the grant could cover that cost. She didn't believe that it could, but could be part of the town match. Nancy Woolley and the historical society will come up with some photos of historical events at the site. Jim will also fix the photo side of the kiosk so it can't be opened. Doon made motion to hire Jim to put together an actual quote, seconded by Tom. So voted.

Constables: Mark noted that there has been a lot of training this month. He just completed CEW training and informed the board that they would like to get tasers after policies are in place. Short discussion on Bethel Mtn truck traffic. In the fall he will be taking training on road weights for certification of scales. Short discussion ensued about borrowing scales and where to pull trucks over for weighing. The board asked Joan to check with Brandon about their ordinance, and possibly also West Rutland. The truck is going to need some maintenance this year as well. Robert asked Mark if the taser ordinances/policies will come from VLCT, and Mark explained that the Academy has policies in place, and they will adopt those. Nancy asked how that would affect the towns' insurance policy.

Mark also asked about the windows at the town office on the lower level. The board revisited the bid from Eric Belanger for \$2025 to replace the three windows. The door into the boiler room in the back also needs to be replaced as well. Doon made motion to accept the bid, seconded by Jim. So voted. Mark asked that Eric contact him so he can be at the office while the work is being done for security reasons.

Highway: Dan informed the board that they are paving the Access Road now, and that Middle Hollow is still on the schedule. They are still getting more gravel in.

Water/Sewer: Terry noted all is ok, and the bond vote passed. He reminded all that we need to keep moving along with the project.

Joan will also renew the Village Downtown designation. The board signed a contract with Hebert Construction for the Maple Hill culvert project.

Bills reviewed and warrants signed.

The board moved into executive session at 7:15 pm regarding a business proposal for the town. Attending were Doon, Jim, Tom, Robert, Terry and Dan. Exited executive session at 7:55.

Action: The board will meet tomorrow morning at 6:30 pm at the pump house to do a ph test and see how the tests agree when done by two different people, as well as what the test reads.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell