

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Joan Allen, Dave Harvey, Nancy Woolley, Lony Fried, Ton DeBoer, Mason Wade with Orca Media, John Champion, Terry Severy, Diane and Dick White, Bruce and Doreen Jones, Harland Mckirryher, Marvin and Barb Harvey,

Doon called the meeting at 6:15pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity

Additions: Mason-Conflict of Interest

New Business: Setting the 2019-2020 tax rate, Doon noted we are still waiting on the education tax rate so we will have to wait until mid-week, hopefully Wednesday to set the tax rate. Doon noted we would table that for now.

Next on the agenda, Doon noted we have a certificate confirming there is no appeal or suit pending to the Grand List. Doon made a motion to sign and explained that it needed to be signed for putting forward the Grand Lists to set the tax rate. So, voted.

Doon noted a new 2019 Town Road and Bridge Standard document that was prepared by Two Rivers Ottaquechee. Doon motioned to move ahead and execute. Board in favor. So, voted.

Doon noted on the agenda the signing of approval for a promissory note to Mascoma Bank for a line of credit to deal with lower Bethel Mountain Road. We will wait to sign until reviewed by lawyer so we will table that as well.

Doon noted next on the agenda is to adopt a Social Service Appropriation Policy and sign it. Doon noted its basically the different organizations that are requesting funds at the annual Town meeting. This policy will clarify their intentions of who they are and what they are asking and not allow them to piggy-back several requests in one proposal. Doon made the motion to adopt. Pat seconded. So, voted.

Mason spoke about the Conflict of Interest Policy. He referenced that with the recent policy that was adopted on June 24, asking if it was in an executive session. Board corrected that it was in a regular meeting. He noted that basically by July 1, the state mandated we have a new Conflict of Interest Policy that we work with Vermont Leagues and Cities and Towns and that we homogenized a boiler point. He suggested that we add to the annual Town Meeting report a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy, and to include the new policy, following the page of all the positions people can run for office. Nancy added to that statement that the positions that are in conflict are determined by state statute and are not determined by the town. She noted that the Statues say for example if a selectboard person can be a town clerk. Mason clarified that if it meets state statues the town can change the policy. Doon thought it was reasonable to include in the town report. Nancy noted that it would be known as Incompatible Positions.

Joan Updates: Joan noted that for the FEMA work, John is working on bids for projects that will go out to bid and will determine which ones the town crew will do. Joan will be working with Julie to come up with a template for the bid package, so they follow what FEMA wants to see. This template will be used for all projects moving forward. Joan noted that we are now in the system for FEMA and we are currently waiting for two things to happen from the state. One is we have a FEMA helper, who is employed by the state that is an agent that will be helping our town through the process. His name is Jim and he will be calling Julie and I sometime soon to get acquainted. Within a couple weeks of that he will be coming to do a site visit.

Joan noted through the US Forest Service there are two major projects. One of which is the West Hill Bridge. This project will need to go out to bid for the engineering services and the other is writing the grant application which is due the end of August for the construction part. Joan noted that she hoped to work with Chris Mattrick on that process with all the technical information needed.

The other US Forest Service project is Bingo Road. There is a temporary fix that the road crew would like to do in consultation with Cricket for this year. It would involve moving the road about 15' away from the streambank where it is caving in. A more permanent fix of moving the road further away would be done later. She noted that after quick email discussion with Chris Mattrick, would need to start by submitting a special use permit application. Joan noted it was a seven-page document that she is working on with John, to describe what the town is proposing to do. She asked if the Forest service could help come up with the money for the cost of that and Chris will investigate that. Pat asked how temporary the fix is going to be heading into the winter or through the winter. John noted it would be through the winter.

Joan noted that the big issue now is Bethel Mountain Road. She just received the new schedule. The bid ads were just posted today, and they are posted on a variety of websites. They are posted on the Dubois and King website. The town will also be receiving a set of plans. That had moved things back a couple days so Dubois and King could work out some technical details. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 10am. The bids will be due Friday, July 19th at 4:30 pm. They can only be submitted on paper, no electronic files submitted allowed. There will be a special selectboard meeting to open the bids and choose the contractor. Following a couple days later, Dubois and King will provide a bid analysis. It will give a background information about who bid, how much and if there are any defects in the documents. This will provide a clear explanation of why the town chose the awarded contractor.

Joan noted that there is going to be a second bid that Dubois and King will prepare for the Upper Bethel Mountain Road project called Site 2. Those will go through a similar process as the lower Bethel Mountain Road but on a smaller scale.

Joan added to the Road and Bridge standard document that the board signed, a couple things had to be clear and choices made in a couple areas that the board agreed to and complied. She noted that through Two Rivers, VTrans realized it was time to make the VTrans Road and Bridge Standards conform to the Municipal road general permit. Starting July 1st, if we want to get the maximum amount from FEMA that we conform to those rules.

Harland had a question about the Bingo Road. He noted from reading in the books how the selectboard conveyed to the National Forest Service the right to build a road on or about Bingo Rd. back in 1938. He questioned the board if it were a town road, a forest service road or a town/forest road. Doon noted it was a town road up to that point. He also asked the relationship between the town and the forest service. Doon noted it was accessing their property. He said that they contribute as a cooperative. Joan noted it's a town road for 4 miles in and after that its forest road. His concern is that in 1938 the selectboard conveyed to the national forest service the right to build the forest road starting at Rt. 73 continuing out. He asked then whose road is it. Discussion ensued that the Town took it over.

Doon thanked John for spraying the cross walks to make it safer for all the Suzuki folks.

Ton DeBoer spoke and noted his question about the 2.3 Million and the relation to all the repairs that would be done. Doon clarified that it would be up to that amount and would be used as a line of credit. He was concerned that there was enough there for the repair work. Doon added that the money would be reimbursed in stages, not waiting till the whole project. The board noted that all the repairs would be more then the loan amount to complete all that must be done. Ton also asked if the board has any idea how long it will take. Doon noted that we are anticipating October 15th. Ton also asked, going back to the town road and bridge standard, and someone mentioned that it is a municipal standard, asking if that were correct. Doon explained that it was coordinating the municipal standards with the state standards, making it so we are all on the same page. Lony Fried spoke and asked if anyone had considered the safety of the residence on Brook St and Upper and Lower Bethel Mountain Road and how dangerous it is to drive. Doon explained that we had been talking about this a lot. Lony's concern was that she felt uninformed. Pat noted that all the selectboard meetings are videotaped. She felt that the city would need to take the responsibility to inform its residence. She felt it was very confusing. She noted that the road has been in pour shape for the last seven years and it didn't make sense to keep addressing it over an over. The board explained that this is a final fix that it will be professionally done. She wanted to compliment the crew for fixing the gully so they could get into their driveway.

Utilities Updates: Terry noted that hopefully the hydrant will be done this week. Last week was a short week and the weather being an issue.

Doon noted that the old business of the missing book on the agenda and there wasn't any new information. Diane White spoke that she felt that the traffic has been alleviated some with the signs. The three on the Bethel side and two on this side. She noted that it hadn't been as bad except for the holiday weekend. She said having the sheriff here has been great! Bruce asked if the speed limit will change or will it stay at 35 mph. Doon said it has to stay and it will for the foreseeable future. Dick White mentioned that a state trouper stopped a truck on the other side of Bethel Mountain getting ready to come over.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith