

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

July 10, 2017

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen, Tom Schnabel

Guests: Martha Slater, Mason Wade, Terry Severy, Joan Allen, Marv & Barb Harvey, Kathleen & Bill Irwin, Eric & Ginny Bowman, Chris Mattrick, Bruce Flewelling, Nick Piccicuto

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

Adjustments to Agenda: Mason asked for follow up on information that the public receives, and he has a letter to submit to the board. Kathleen (Keifer) Irwin asked to discuss the Bingo Rd/Mahar project. Marvin asked for executive session, and Doon asked that Joanne stay for pay rate discussion.

Minutes from the June 26, 2017 meeting need corrections, and Joanne will review the tape for correct wording. Will be tabled until corrections made.

Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on June 27th, seconded by Jim. So voted. Mason asked the board to think about a correction he would like to suggest on the June 26th meeting minutes. He would like corrections to this sentence: "Joanne noted that he was not the submitter, Nick was who submitted it for Mason." He asked who is Nick, and he already stated that he did not submit it. Nobody submitted it for him. Doon asked if this is about the petition to the school board, which it is. Joanne said that she will put in Nick Piccicuto (his last name to clarify), and will state clearly that Nick told her that he was submitting it (petition) for Mason. Nick asked that the record state that he submitted it of his own volition. Joanne reminded him that that is not what Nick told her when he gave her the petition in the office that morning. Nick noted that it was actually for Amy, but since he walked it over and submitted it to Joanne, it is his responsibility.

Guests: Gary Kessler spoke about the Green Mountain Stage Race which happens this year on September 3rd. There are two fields that will bike from Mt Ellen, over Bethel Mtn and then back over Rt 107 through town again. Each field will be led by State Police, and there will be other enforcement and medical personnel as well. Gary will contact our local constables for assistance as well, and their organization will pay for their time. There will be an insurance certificate forwarded to the town naming them as insured as well. Gary explained that there could be between 100-230 racers all together in the two fields. Doon made motion to approve the race, seconded by Jim. So voted. The board signed a permit request from the state police so the riders can be more than 2 abreast within the lane.

Kiefer noted her concerns about the possible use of snowmobiles/atv on Bingo Road. She wants to be sure that all parties are "talking at the same table". She seen nothing positive if Marty Mahar is allowed to request plowing to the USFS road and use of snowmobiles because of all the recreation that happens on the road during winter. The entire Pine Brook Trail will be taken away, and she uses that several times a week during the winter. Chris Mattrick, USFS Ranger at Rochester noted that Marty should have come to the town originally, but the forest services has to address requests when they receive them.

Also, they cannot deny access to private property. Chris also noted that he has received all negative comments from local residents regarding the recreation and the negative affect on wildlife in the area. He has issued a summer access permit, but not for winter access. He explained that Smokey Bowen (prior owner) never had a winter access permit, and used it only as a 3 season camp. Chris has denied a permit for motorized winter access over 62 and 62A to Marty. He also advised against plowing the class 3 portion of the road as it will disrupt the loop trail use. Mason noted that there are electric ATV's and electric snowmobiles now, he would like Marty to use electric vehicles. Nothing has been decided about plowing the road. Keifer asked who would make the decision about plowing the road, which the Selectboard would decide. Keifer also asked who would police the traffic out there if the road is plowed. Chris reiterated that he has denied winter motorized access, but also noted that last year they investigated some snowmobile use in the area that was not Marty's. He also informed the board that if there was any emergency or crisis, he can grant a onetime emergency access permit. Nothing has been requested of the town at this point.

Mason noted that he has mentioned a few times that we should look at public meetings with webcam. If we are looking at upgrading police force with taser guns, well, let's webcam the public meetings. He put a letter together that he gave to the board as he is dealing with closure since January on the petition issue. Board can read at their leisure, but basically it is closure for him. Doon noted that the letter is not about webcams, but about the petition, and Mason noted that at the very end it is. Doon thought this might be an interesting discussion at the annual town meeting to see how the voters feel.

New Business: Application for use of the River Brook Park: Doon made motion to approve Bud & Andrea's wedding on September 2, 2017, seconded by Jim. So voted.

The new tax rate was reviewed by the board. The municipal tax rate for the 2017-2018 tax year will be 0.543. If you have a home valued at \$150,000, you pay \$814 in taxes. The educational rates are 1.3775 (non-residential) and 1.4476 (homestead).

Joan's Updates: Joan told the board that we need signage at the Park and Ride, and they should consider what type of signs they would like to see there. Joan thinks there is excess funding in the grant to cover signs such as handicap spaces, Public Park and ride, and possibly no overnight parking. Also she has to figure the space for an electric car charging station will be. Short discussion ensued. This could be put off until next spring. Joan will check on getting an E911 shelter, and also getting a small shelter since Stagecoach has said they would use it as a pick-up/drop-off site. There is space for 6 cars.

Marv asked Joan about an update on the stormwater outlet behind Beth Frock's house, and she has not heard anything. The state will be doing some work on a couple outlets in town.

Joan also informed the board that there is no formal ordinance regarding ATV's or snowmobiles in town. In 1996, a motion was made to ban all ATV traffic on town roads, but the formal process of creating an ordinance was not followed through on. Per VLCT attorneys, the board will have to start from scratch. Terry noted that some town roads are accessible to snowmobiles through VAST. The board will have to decide if they want to move forward to create a new ordinance regarding ATV's/snowmobiles. Short discussion ensued regarding USFS jurisdiction of town roads that go through USFS lands. Lots of regulations, according to Chris Mattrick. The board clarified that an ordinance regarding through trucks (over Bethel Mtn Rd) as opposed to weight limits will be of use.

Utilities: Terry noted that since the flooding on July 1st, someone has most likely been using a sump pump and pumping lots of water into Site 4. As of Sunday morning, the jump was up 8000 gallons, and then dropped down to about 5. He noted that this had happened 4-5 years ago and then stopped. Short discussion ensued.

Roads: Dan is on vacation, but we fared well during the flooding. Beans Bridge Road held up well!

The board entered executive session at 7:12 pm. Marvin had requested for personnel, and invited Barb to join. The board approved. The second portion of executive session will be a discussion with Joanne about a pay rate.

Exited executive session at 7:40 pm. Action taken: The board asked Marv to be patient a bit longer as we are now in a new budget year for gravel. The pay rate issue will need further research.

Bills reviewed, warrants signed. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell