

## Selectboard Meeting

Monday, August 13, 2018

6:15 pm

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel

Guests: Norm Christiansen, Jaimen Benson, Martha Slater, Jeff Steincamp, Harland & Brad Mckirryher, Bruce Flewelling, Walt Wells, Linda Leehy, Terry Severy, Nancy Woolley, Tim Bowen, John Champion, Mark Kassop, Bud Venturini, Susan Morse & guest, Desmond Piccicuto (Orca Media)

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

Guests: Jaimen explained that the road crew had put down chloride shortly after he requested it at the last meeting, but it only helped for about 24 hours. He believes that the asphalt that is under the gravel is not allowing the moisture to come up through and keep the road damp. Lengthy discussion ensued about what can be done to fix this. Tom noted that he has done some research, and a lot of towns have this issue. There are other materials that could possibly be mixed with the chloride to help fix this. Joan will check in on the Better back roads forum to see what other towns do. Bruce suggested checking with the USFS to see what they used on Chittenden Brook Rd.

Dawn Ostrow thanked the road crew for the work they've done and noted that the ditches created just below her house are about 4' deep. She is concerned that people will go off the road in the winter. It was agreed that putting more sand on the roads in winter will help this.

Susan Morse asked the board if the speed limit on Bingo Rd could be reduced from 35 mph. There are many walkers, bicyclists and pets on the road. Linda Leehy and Brad Mckirryher also agreed with Susan, and Joan will investigate what it will take to reduce the speed.

Walt Wells noted that he has been attending meetings for the past 6-7 months, and during that time, there has been no actual information given about the Pine Gap Rd suit. We elected someone as agent to prosecute and defend suits and the public is entitled to this info. We have spent about \$20,000 with no word about the suit. Doon noted that the town agent is not a trial lawyer, and this doesn't fall under their realm of work. Walt noted that Maher/Casella filed a motion to intervene, and as nonresidents they have available to them everything that has been done on the side of the town while the residents don't know what is going on. At the least the Selectboard should be aware that this motion has taken place. Doon noted that they are property owners, and the update is that this is out of our hands. The lawyers are researching history and looking to see what was created and when, or what was not created. The

intervention should hopefully lessen costs to Rochester taxpayers. Walt again noted that the Selectboard should be giving more info than what the suit is costing. Joanne noted that the cost was requested. Discussion continued. Doon explained that those roads were created in Philadelphia, and Rochester received the property from Goshen. Goshen's town office has burned down at least 3 times, so question is where records are. Harland noted that he has asked many times to be brought up to speed on new developments on the road and it hasn't happened. Is there a new invoice? Yes, \$4933.00 bringing the total closer to \$25000. He feels this is a grudge match between board members and a person who has done a few petitions. Doon noted this was absurd. Tom noted that the town is the defendant in this case, we did not bring the suit. Heated discussion continued. Doon did note that they are abutting landowners to the road, as they bought the property owned in Hancock that the road goes to. Linda asked what the intervention means to us. Doon explained that Marty and Kristen are sharing expense to the town and helping with research.

Joan's updates: Joan noted that the Village Center designation needs paperwork to be filed to move the design and MPG ahead. Doon signed the letter to TRORC and GMEDC.

The grant in aid for the next project will be \$17000.00 (total cost) and will have a 20% town match. A project will need to be picked next week to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The municipal road general permit has been received and the fee is paid.

We received a sidewalk repair grant through VTRANS. Sidewalks in front of Park House and from Sandy's down to School St will be repaired. Curbing will be needed. Joanne will be the "full time employee" as a contact person. The grant is for \$54800.00 which will include engineering. Nancy asked if there will be a crosswalk painted from the Skip Mart to the Park? Discussion ensued. Test holes need to be dug for the Stormwater master plan. The consultants want to schedule a time and we need to rent a backhoe. Holes will be near the town garage near the river, at the new park and at the town office. It was decided that Wednesday August 22 will be the day. Better roads Grant-TRORC will do the work but will need some time on the roads with John.

Highway: John noted that the Western Star truck has been at J&B with emissions problems, and leaking hoses. He noted a contractor had installed a culvert without a permit and not to specs. The asphalt pile at that pit will cost about \$15,000 to crush, and he thinks we should consider giving it away. No decision made at this time. He also asked about the roadside mowing bids and what the board is thinking about a third road crew member. He explained that if we rent an excavator, we will need both trucks to haul material and if we wait, we will have to hire a person and a machine.

Roadside mowing bids: Two bids were received; Music Mtn Property Management bid \$13955.00 to do the entire town. KA Bagley, \$16,500.00 but gave no specs on how much road or what equipment. Doon made motion to accept Music Mtn's bid with proper insurances, seconded by Tom. So voted.

Utilities: Site one is almost done, there have been problems with the 35 year old pipes. They have replaced the pipe with PVC. Site 3 work has had to re-screen stone since the contract called for washed stone, and they will be laying pipe by end of the week and setting pumps next week.

New business: Joanne asked for the ok to put together a bid request for painting the town office building. The board agreed and asked for two bids-one for the front of the building and one for the entire building. Nancy suggested getting a price on vinyl siding.

Doon noted the boards intent to apply for the downtown district designation, and Tom agreed.

Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, seconded by Tom. So voted.

Old Business: The workers comp policy still needs to be worked on.

Bills reviewed, and warrants signed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell