

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

August 14, 2017

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen

Guests: Terry Severy, Martha Slater, Marty Mahar, Kristen Casella, Mason Wade, Jeannette Bair, Vic Ribaldo, Muffie & Randy Andrews, Jola Labejsza

Adjustments to the Agenda: Marty and Kristen would like to discuss Pine Gap Road. Mason asked about proper etiquette about how information shared with the community from the Town Office, and how webcams can be important for future voter understanding.

Minutes: Doon made motion to approve the August 7, 2017 special meeting (Municipal Road grant in aid discussion), seconded by Jim. So voted. Doon made motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2017 meeting, seconded by Jim. So voted.

Marty Mahar told the board that he and Kristen had met with Chris Mattrick, USFS Ranger to follow up on a winter access discussion. Chris is still not interested in giving them a permit for access on 62A. He explained that they spent months researching the property and spoke with Bruce Flewelling as well. Because access to the camp is not available by Bingo Rd to Thresher Hill Rd, the other way is Pine Gap Road. He believes that the road was never given up by the town, and anyone with a registered snowmobile can travel it. He has not received any notice that the town has any ordinance otherwise. They believed that the access would be by Bingo to 62A, but now believe that the access will have to be on Pine Gap Rd. He gave the board a copy of the GIS map that they have of the property. He noted that they spoke with Mason earlier as he will be most impacted. Short discussion ensued. The original access was on Pine Gap Road. Mason noted that he believes the town gave up the road when the USFS rearranged the road structures in creating Tin Can Rd into a non-motorized hiking section. There was a lot that went on basically giving up motorized traffic by his house through his property which is what we are talking about right now. He noted that if anything is going to happen, it has to be worked out with the forest service to open up Tin Can Rd. He wants only an electric unit but not 5 feet from his house. He believes the road is thrown up. Marty noted that if the road was given up prior to 2015, they would be designated as "D" for discontinued. Doon noted that there will need to be research done on the road. Discussion continued. The board will look into this and revisit with Marty. It was noted that the town is not obligated to maintain a class 4 road, only to control erosion. This issue was tabled for further information.

Mason had handed the board members a copy of a posting on Front Porch Forum by the clerk denouncing him. There was a situation where a Front Porch Forum posting by the Town Clerk denouncing him, and not using his legal name, but referring to him as Cloud. He questions this

and asked if the Selectboard sanctions this posting. This is where having webcams at future meetings would be important so voters can visit and get their own opinions. The Clerk put out an opinion about a voter. Doon noted that the board did not sanction the posting. Mason noted that a paid individual using the town computer and address brings into liability question for the taxpayers. How does the board want to deal with it? Short discussion ensued. Joanne told the board that the posting was done during town office hours and that the original posting was responded to as a private citizen but on the town computer which was wrong. She apologized to Mason and the board for that. Short discussion continued. Joanne told the board that no other private discussion will be posted on FPF, only town business and the board has approved it. Doon told Mason that he should do a petition regarding webcams for meetings to be presented at the March 2018 Town Meeting. Mason asked what is happening with the taser situation. He is being asked to do a petition for webcams, but not for tasers. Short discussion ensued. Doon explained that this program is in conjunction with Bethel and Granville, and if Rochester does not sign, it creates hardship for the other two towns. Mason asked if there will be a special meeting for this, which there is not. Constable Mark Belisle had left a policy on taser use for the board to sign. He and Randy have both been through the training, and Doon recommended adopting the policy. This will give them guidelines for use of tasers. Jim seconded the recommendation, policy adopted. Joanne explained that the tennis court net was vandalized and showed the photos that Walt Pruiksmas had forwarded. It has been replaced, but it would be good to have more constable presence at the area.

Guests: Jola spoke to the board about the quitclaim deed that was written up for the Library Trustees to transfer building ownership to the Town. Doon explained that the next step will be to forward this deed and the original deed to our legal advisor to review. He also wants it to be published in the paper so the original heirs will know this is upcoming as the original clause returns the building to the Pierce family. Joan asked if the transfer comes with a reserve fund for stained glass window maintenance. Jola noted that they campaign annually. Discussion ensued, and the board will contact the trustees after the review.

Vic Ribauda gave the board an update on the Emergency Management information. He has reviewed the LEOP and Emergency Management plan, and he is available to act as incident commander. He has discussed many implementations with Rob Gardner and has found volunteers for the key areas. Incident Command: Vic and Doon, Infrastructure/Roads: Ray & Cheryl Harvey and Dan Gendron, Safety: Terry, Fire Dept., Hazmat, Health/Medical: Gail Proctor, Mass Care: Jan McCann. He still has some people to get in touch with and commented that possibly drills should happen several times per year. The board thanked him for his work. Mason asked if Rochester is still a host destination for a Connecticut town if a nuclear bomb is dropped. This is something we should know, and Vic will look into it. Marv suggested that Vic speak to Walt Wells as a resource as well.

Joan's Updates: Joan told the board that she was advised by VTRANS to suggest DMV enforcement details. We already have the signage needed on both sides of Bethel Mtn Road,

which is where the truck traffic continues to happen. Possibly the board could create an ordinance to prohibit truck traffic, then post the prohibition after the ordinance passes. She also told the board to start thinking about looking for funds from State/Federal Grants for water quality and to curtail water runoff. There is money for building new salt sheds, and this is something we should start thinking about. Our salt shed is too close to the river now. Joan also informed the board that it tentatively appears that our application for the Structures Grant (design of retaining wall on Bethel Mtn Road) appears to have been declined. Joan noted that apparently some percentage of the \$9400 final payment to Griffin & Griffin for the West Hill project can be reimbursed. Also, Monday Aug 21st at 8am, there will be a 60% design meeting for the Site 3 project at the office. Joan also told the board that she will be looking into our cost share for the North Hollow Culvert project. We should be getting 90%, but they only note 80%.

Highway: Marine Hill Culvert work has begun, and have been grading on West Hill Rd. Randy Andrews noted his concern about the ditching at his driveway on Terrace Hill. He asked that the water bar be removed. Short discussion ensued, and Dan noted that he did the ditching to control the flow of water, but will smooth it out tomorrow. There was a request from a taxpayer to avoid cutting their tree when doing roadside mowing. No mowing this year.

Utilities: Smoke testing never happened. This is to see if any sewer is going into the storm drains. They never showed up.

Jola noted that Brook Street from Cyarra down is very washboard.

Marv asked about recycling, and Doon explained that it will continue, and may go to twice a month. More information will be forthcoming.

Marv also asked about an ordinance for disturbing the peace or loud noises outside of the village. It is not believed that there is any ordinance other than a 10pm curfew within the village limits.

Bills were reviewed and warrants signed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell