

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Joan Allen, Eric Bowman, Walt Wells, John Champion, Nancy Woolley, Harland McKirryher, Lizzy Shackelford, Daniel Ward, Tony Goupee, Greg White, Frank Russell and Mason Wade for Orca Media

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm |

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions: Harland- 30 years of missing SB book update, Eric Bowman had questions, Mason- question for Orca-Open meeting law and the Executive session on the agenda. Mason asked when the official adjournment of the public meeting would end. Doon noted that it would be after executive session. Doon noted people are welcome to wait outside or in the other room to wait for the end of executive session. Doon noted that any decisions made in executive session then will be communicated to the public or noted in the minutes of the meeting. Mason asked when the bills fit in to the agenda and Doon noted even though listed on the agenda last would take place before the executive session. Mason- new update on the new location of gate on 42 by the US Forest Service, and also what is the Town's plans on its asset on the ski loop and how we are going to handle it and lastly in reference to the Emergency Climate Declaration the discussion about having the Rochester Civil Authority here to discuss E-Voting. Lizzy-speaking about the Climate Emergency Declaration.

Doon moved to approve the selectboard meeting minutes from October 14, 2019. Tom seconded. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Joan noted that we received a letter back in September from NRCS Emergency Protection Program, which aids private landowners for damage from the flood. She noted that they visited with Pat to 16 sites and only 1 had qualified. It was the property owned by Dean Mendell on Breakneck brook. She noted that there were costs to the town of 20%. She noted that she reached out to find out what the town will need to do moving forward once figures have been discussed.

Joan noted that there was a contract addendum that Doon needed to sign for the Wastewater improvement. She noted that the final bill for \$342 wasn't included for some reason in the DuBois contract and the State wouldn't sign off without the addendum.

Joan noted that the IDIQ for Site 2, VTrans required a financial and maintenance agreement to be signed with the Town. She noted that it is basically a document that stated the State paid for the improvements on a town road and therefore the town agrees to take responsibility for maintaining those improvements moving forward. She noted that this need to be signed in front of a Notary.

She noted that she has been spending a lot of time working with Cooter compiling all the town expenses associated with Bethel Mountain road for Site 1,1B and site 2 to submit to VTrans for reimbursement. She noted that they will be working on that for the next few weeks. She noted that there are some expenses that haven't been paid. Tatro hasn't been paid for their final invoice yet. She noted that DuBois and King have an invoice to submit for their final work in approving the last invoice. She noted

that it may not be until sometime next month when the final invoices would be coming in for payment. She noted that the FEMA stuff continues.

Library Updates: Tony shared that there will be a making Terrariums with Jan McCann on Tuesday at 11 am. He noted that there is a story time for Halloween at Pierce Hall.

Highway Updates: John noted that the sand was here. He noted that there was a little culvert issue on Town Line that will be address tomorrow. He noted there was a head wall that collapsed over a 4' culvert. He noted that all the snow tires are on the trucks. He noted that the International had to go to the dealer for an emissions light problem and should get that back in a day or two.

New Business:

Approval of the new revised Employee Handbook. Doon thanked Tom for putting all his energy into that. Tom noted that we have a new version that has been updated since 2008. He noted it is a public document. He said it would be available for anyone to view. He noted that a copy would be in the Town Clerk's office. Frank asked what significant changes were made. Tom noted that there were significant changes. He noted that VLCT was the backbone for the legal release of it all. He noted much of it is from their recommendations. He noted that he added what made sense for our town for local policy and he noted that when it was completed, he sent it back to head of human resources of VLCT so they can review it again. Frank asked if a copy had been available prior to the meeting. Tom noted that it had not. He noted that the older revision was available. Harland asked if it could be available on the website. Discussion about putting on the website was a possibility vs having copies made since it was a 28-page document. Doon moved to approve, Pat seconded. So, voted.

MVP Health Insurance plan was discussed. Doon noted that the Budget and finance committee it looked like it was a good move. Greg summarized that he took the information Larry Smith, from VLCT provided of the 2 insurance companies. He noted that they looked at the current plans used by the town employees. He noted that Blue Cross Blue Shield was going up considerably at 14% for the Platinum and 15% for the Gold Plan. He noted that MVP was slightly lower than the current BCBS rates. He noted that there would be a small savings if we go with the MVP plan and the employees enroll in the same plans currently. He noted that it was assuming that it would be the same contribution rate from employees of 14%. Greg noted that they compare the benefits and they were very similar. Greg noted that he did look at some of the in network and it did look similar but wasn't sure who the folks used so but from a hospital perspective and urgent care it was similar. Tom noted that he looked at the plans himself and he would agree that the MVP plan was the smart way to go. Doon moved to approve the MVP plan and the numbers can be folded into the budget as we move forward with that process. Pat seconded. So, voted. Doon thanked Greg for his work on that.

Doon noted that a model Class 4 Highway policy recommended by town attorney, James Barlow. He noted it was in reference to last weeks discussion of improvements made on a class 4 road in anticipation of a timber sale for the Swans mill Sale. Doon asked the fellow selectmen if they reviewed and found a typo. Doon moved to approve it. Tom noted that he hadn't digested it yet. Doon noted that it could be amended and was good to have a policy in place. Harland asked for a copy. Mason noted that it would be a good idea to table to next meeting so it could be reviewed. Pat noted that it was warned on the agenda. Doon noted that it was slightly time sensitive. Discussion ensued and a decision by the

selectboard to give the public time to review and have a special Selectboard meeting on Monday, November 4 at 5 pm to adopt.

Mason noted that the gate was at 62 but the gate is now at 42 at the end of Bingo Road. Doon noted that he spoke with Chris Mattrick about it. He noted that Chris was surprised it was done. He noted that Chris mentioned that the old gate was destroyed by the bears so instead of 2 gates there would be just one gate. Doon noted that Cooter was concerned that if they had to plow out beyond there that there wasn't a place to turn around. He noted in support of the ski loop there wouldn't be any plowing out that way. Eric said that this was what he was going to question. He wanted to know if the Town had a policy with Bingo this year because of the gate and that there appears to be a parking lot being built. He noted that if the parking lot is functional. Doon asked where the parking lot was located, and Eric noted that it was within the forest boundary but past the boundary at the east side of the four corners on Bingo Rd. He noted they were taking out a camping site. He asked if they would just plow to the parking lot and come back out. Cooter noted that the parking lot that was built wasn't big enough to turn around. Doon noted that if the landowner requests for the road to be plowed then they will plow but that there isn't a plan to plow.

Lizzy spoke about the idea of a climate emergency declaration and she noted that she did some research and noted that she read about what other municipalities have done. She noted that it has been a bigger movement over the years world-wide. She noted that with the current administration we can't count on them to protect what we have here, so it is a great time to investigate it. She noted that at sometime in December would like to be on the agenda to speak about what she has learned, and what other folks are doing. She noted how Burlington City council just passed their Climate Emergency Declaration. She noted that she is working with Mason and if anyone else wants to help, please reach out. Frank asked if she was going to take steps to put it on the town meeting and she noted that she would be.

Mason noted that for new business at the next meeting have the Rochester Civil Board of Authority present to discuss about the ability to have E-Voting. Doon noted that in his own investigating he had done, he didn't find anything with VLCT and the Secretary of State that addressed e-voting. Only Australian ballot and Absentee voting. Doon noted that larger areas backing away from e-voting because of concern with fraud potential. Mason said that in Utah and Hawaii seemed to be doing well with it. Mason noted with the 800 voters and this would be a great opportunity to experiment it on. Doon noted that he wasn't sure with state statues would allow it. Mason noted it would be good to have the Civil Board make that decision. Doon noted that it was more of a Secretary of State issue and not something the Civil Board would decide. Discussion ensued and research would need to be done. Mason noted that as a town we could ask the state if we could be an experiment in this process. Walt noted without a statute the votes wouldn't count. Nancy noted that in statues, there's a definition of the total authority of the board of civil authority.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Doon made motion to enter executive session at 7:30 pm. Exited at 8:15 pm.

Action: Authorized Tom to sign bill of sale for constable cruiser and to authorize the delivery of personal reviews to personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith

