

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December 09, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Nancy Woolley, Tony Goupee, Vic Ribaldo, Harland McKirryher and Wayne Fisher for Orca Media

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the Agenda: Martha-discuss about the Night before the Night before Christmas conflict of time for the next Selectboard meeting. Harland-missing book.

Doon moved to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2019 selectboard meeting. Tom seconded. All in favor. So, voted

Doon invited Vic Ribaldo to speak about the request for approval for Rochester to participate in a Multi-town Working Communities Challenge Grant.

Vic noted that this grant fund that was created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, to support economic development in New England. He noted that they have been working primarily in more urban areas of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island and most recently starting to fund programs in Vermont. He noted that within Vermont about 2 dozen towns have been identified as potential recipients of the grant. Those towns with a population of six thousand or more would be eligible and those towns that are less than six thousand in population, have been identified as a HUB town and they would need work with adjacent towns to submit a grant application to make up 6,000 or more people. He noted that in our area, Randolph is a designated HUB town. He noted that all surrounding towns, Brookfield, Braintree, Bethel, Chelsea, Rochester are invited to participate. Vic noted that many including himself from other towns are working closely with Jesse Jerome, who is the economic development director from the town of Randolph to put this together. Vic noted he is representing the Envision Rochester Group in this process. The Grant program has two stages. The first stage is a planning stage with a six-month grant for up to fifteen thousand dollars, that would begin this January. That stage of the process would go through a more intensive planning process for implementation. If successful in getting the Planning Grant you are then eligible to get the Implementation Grant. The Implementation Grant covers three years, starting next summer and the award is one hundred thousand dollars for each of those three years. He noted that this funding organizational cross-town collaboration addresses ways to improve economics of the involved communities, particularly those issues that involved low income residents of the area. He noted its particularly looking at housing, transportation, job creation, job eligibility, legal issues, etc. By working together among several organizations in towns to try to come up with creative ways to improve the economic well-being of the citizens of the area. He shared a couple of examples of grants that have been awarded and projects that have forward from within other states. He shared three examples from the state of Massachusetts. In Lawrence, Massachusetts the Lawrence Working Family Initiatives is a two generation effort that coalesce regional employers, service providers and public school systems to transform the local work force for parents of students of connecting over 200 individuals to hire paying jobs, introducing nearly 650 families to wrap-around services to help their children thrive. Vic noted a second example from Holyoke, Massachusetts named SPARK. The SPARK

initiative in Holyoke developed a data driven ECO system for jump-starting and accelerating a pipeline of Latino owned businesses in the city. Its initial efforts supported 70 entrepreneurs who established 33 new ventures and 82 new jobs filled primarily by Latino women and residents. Vic noted that the third example from Chelsea, Massachusetts called Chelsea Thrives. The team there created an evidence based cross sector crime prevention effort to identify and serve families with acute risk of crime resulting in successful pilot. With over 205 families receiving intervention, the crime figures saw decrease in target neighborhood and inner-city level. Vic stated that in our case, it involves Rochester and other towns plus several other organizations locally that have signed on as partners such as Gifford Hospital, Capstone Community Action Center, Clara Martin Center, and others various organizations are all participating. Vic noted that a cross-collaboration among these community service organizations, employers and the towns can come up with some needs of the low-income people. He noted one way to go about this in the planning grant, if successful is to involve potential beneficia's in the program. He noted we know there's housing problems and transportation issues and all the data is at high levels so he noted we are looking to get on the ground experience and input from people who could be affected by this. This information can be used to inform the Implementation Grant. He also noted that the core team during the planning period would be invited to participate in several all-day workshops to get better educated about the process. He noted the odds are not terrific in getting this grant. Six grants will be awarded with over 2 dozen towns eligible for the planning phase, and of the six awarded they will only award 2 or 3 Implementation Grants. Vic noted that a resolution was drafted to take to all the Selectboards to review and get signatures of approval. Vic noted that the application is due this Friday, December 13. Pat asked at what time would we know if we are contenders or not. Vic responded that they would award the Planning Grant the end of January. He noted that all the towns that applied, will be invited to do a presentation and final decision will be made in the end of January. Pat asked if other town residents were helping in the process and Vic noted that Kathryn Schenkman was helping him with the process as well. He said they look for other people and organizations to get involved, such as consultants or advisors when the time comes, if we get awarded. He noted he would love to have someone from the school district. Nancy asked if towns had to contribute a share of the funds or a match. Vic noted there was no financial obligations for the towns. Doon moved to pledge the Town's support in this endeavor. Tom seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Doon read her report. He noted that the final Tatro request has been submitted to VTrans for approval and payment in the amount of \$534,371.71. He noted that Tatro's total contract amount after numerous change orders added up to \$2,067,877.55 for their part of the Bethel Mountain Road. He noted that when DuBois and King submit their final invoice, which is due at the end of this month Joan will submit reimbursement request for VTrans for the town's direct expenses for sites 1, 1B and 2. He noted this amount is close to \$600,000.00. He noted that DuBois and King has supplied all final documents and plans. He noted that Joan is still working on the FEMA documentation and will continue to work on this for a while. He noted that Joan will submit the Better Roads Application for the grant this week.

Library Updates: Tony noted that there are a couple dates that the Library will be closed. He noted that on December 24th and December 25th and the 31st and the 1st of January. He noted there is a knitting program going on the 19th and a Cooking with Sandy's Bakery making Bocas, Jewish cakes filled with various ingredients and this will take place on the 17th from 10:30-11:30. Doon noted that in terms of the budget process for the ongoing quest for the perfect budget they would like to invite Jola and the

Library to come in on the 17th at 3 pm for the Budget and Finance meeting at the Town office. Doon noted he would reach out to Jola.

New Business: Doon noted we have an engagement letter from Nathan Hawley, the CPA that has been working on the town audits for Rochester for a few years now. Doon moved to engage with his services again signing his letter for FY20. Tom seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon noted that at the Budget and Finance meetings, it had come to their attention that currently there are 2-four hour shifts per week from the Windsor County Sheriff's Department and with the small bit of income from issuing tickets, it would allow the town to hire a third shift. Pat noted that for July 1 through Sept. the amount of money deposited to the Town in Judiciary fines was in the amount of \$2,536.00. She noted that in October we received \$ 1,193.00. She noted this income could sustain another shift. Harland asked what the Sheriff's Departments costs were. Pat noted they were around \$2,000.00 a month. Pat noted that in the first four months that we have had the Sheriff's Dept., we have equaled the amount we have collected in fines for all the previous year. Doon noted that its important to note that we didn't hire them to make money, it helpful to sustain the costs of them being there. Doon noted there was concern of people noting the lack of coverage and this would allow another 4-hour shift equalizing what we had with the Town constable. Doon moved to engage The Windsor County Sheriff's Department for another shift, starting January 1.

Doon noted the town has a Constable/Animal Control position vacant. He noted we need to fill this position by statute. This would be just in title. He noted we have one person interested but we are soliciting anyone who may be interested to let the town know. Pat noted it's an appointed position. Doon noted it would be great to have this position filled by the end of the year.

Doon noted next on the agenda is a proposed approval of the Economic proposal study from SE Group for the Velomont Project. This is something the Town of Rochester is spearheaded on behalf of Rochester, Hancock and Granville. This application is for a grant to study and develop the Velomont Trail. Doon noted he was part of a 4-person group to study six engineering proposals to study the engineering of the economic impact on the trail system. SE Group was a unanimous vote amongst the group. Doon moved to formalize that approval for that proposal from the SE Group for the Velomont Grant. Tom Seconded. So, voted.

Doon noted that the issue of conflicting times of the production of the Night Before the Night Before Christmas was same night as the next Selectboard meeting. Doon moved to change the time of the December 23 selectboard meeting to 5:00 pm, instead of 6:15 pm.

Doon asked Harland if he had found anything on the missing book. Harland noted he did not. Tom wanted to get permission and check in the American Legion room downstairs for the missing book. It was discussed to contact Jeff Brown about getting permission to get in the room.

Harland asked how much we are up on the lawsuit now and Doon noted that we are at \$55,587.29.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith

