

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

March 25, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Mason Wade filming for Orca Media, Terry Severy, Marth Slater, Nancy Woolley, Bruce Flewelling, Walt Wells, Larry Creech, Tony Goupee, Jeanette Bair, Joan Allen, Harland Mckirryher, John Champion, Mark Belisle, Bud Venturini, Brad & Judy Mckirryher,

Doon called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm

Additions to the agenda: Harland wanted to add 4th class road policy

Minutes: Doon moved to approve minutes from the Town Meeting on March 4, 2019, Tom seconded. So, voted. Doon moved to approve Selectboard meeting minutes on March 11, 2019. Tom seconded, so voted

Harland asked what the policy is for the Class 4 Roads. Doon noted that its defaulted to the State Policy. We are required to control water and erosion. Harland asked if anyone had given it any thought to the situation in Bingo. Selectboard asked if he meant Pine Gap Road. Doon noted that there are other arguments about that road that are taking precedence right now and when that is settled then we will be able to address what needs to be done. He stated that the upper road will be used by the Forest Service for the Robinson Project timber harvesting and will leave the road as we desire when the project is complete. Pat stated that Pine Gap road is on the municipal roads permit so that road it already slated to have state funded ditching. She also noted that the Pine Gap road is on the list of Hydraulically Connected Road Ways and it will be placed into the program of improving the ditches by mandate of the state under clean water act. These improvements will come out in next few years. Road 1 is on a 20-year project so when the state says it's time to do that road as a priority, we will be doing the improvements and do the ditching on that road.

Joan's Updates:

Joan stated that a decision needed to be made about bus shelter at the Park and Ride. She has been in touch with the new community relations person at Stagecoach about whether to have the shelter at the Park and Ride and if that would be the best location. After receiving input, it didn't make sense to have it located at the Park and Ride. She noted that we have \$10,000.00 left in that grant budget with a limited amount of time to use it. A basic ADA compliant shelter with all the installation involved would be a minimum cost of \$20,000.00 for a solid structure. She noted that since its not clear where else in town it could be located, perhaps it can be resolved later once we have a larger side walk improvement project underway and a better sense of what's the right place for those who would really use it. She asked that the selectboard to decide to pull the plug on the idea of shelter at the Park and Ride which is the only funding we have now and perhaps

down the road we could find some funding to place it some place else. Doon said it would make sense for us to move forward and think to the future for a new location.

Joan spoke about the Sub grant received from the Department of Public Safety for updating our Pre-Disaster Litigation Plan. Two Rivers is going to be doing the primary amount of work and a committee headed up by Vic Ribauda together would help draft a plan with Two Rivers. The grant amount is for about \$7,600-\$7,700 and there a 25% match for the Town which will be filled by towns people donating their time to put together the plan. We finally did receive the grant and will need signatures from the selectboard to proceed. Vic has been notified we have received this grant so he can start scheduling their work and he is putting together a planning meeting for the Emergency Preparedness committee for April 10th.

Joan's last item to discuss on Grants is an update on the Town Garage Funding for the stormwater. White River Partnership did get a grant from the Clean Water Block Grant for \$100,000.00. That's based on an estimate from our consultants for \$72,000.00. She added all the add-ons and adjustments that might be made to the cost based on the final plan. We have a preliminary estimate and a preliminary plan from the consultants that would be used to make it a final plan, so we know what we are exactly doing. The match required for this grant would be \$14,400.00 based on the \$72,000.00, if it's the \$100,000.00 then the match would be \$20,000.00. Some of the match money can be fulfilled by the Town crew doing some of the work and the remainder would be cash. Mary from WRP had applied to a National Forest type of grant and that was unapproved. Mary came up with another proposal in a couple different ways to approach this. The first is to simply use a portion of the Clean Water Block grant we already have in hand to finish up the design part but wouldn't cover implementation unless we found more money. Then we could delay implementation until next year. The risk in doing that would be we would have a plan sitting on the shelf and next years funding would be very uncertain because where the state's legislature seems to be going in this term with clean water funding is all going to Lake Champlain Basin. Connecticut River Basin projects will be put on hold, this is a change of what it has been the last few years. Its not certain it will go that way but currently looking like it will. That could create a problem so there are other grant sources like the ERP program, coming through DEC and it has been around a long time and good source of funding, but not clear that it would be going forward. Mary came up with another proposal to swap with WRP's assistance with funding for town's projects and if we do get a Structure grant from VTrans to do the Mt. Cushman's Road Culvert installation, WRP can look for funding to meet that 10% match (\$17,500.00) which is very close to the 20% match for the Town Garage Funding. So effectively the town would be spending the same amount of money but on the garage project instead of the Cushman Project. Joan noted that details would need to be resolved and asked the board if they were willing to take a little risk on that in order to implement the garage project then to have a design sit on the shelf for however long. Doon noted that the money for the culvert project would likely be here and whereas the Stormwater is likely to be up in the air. Pat stated that is would be worth working the numbers with John for the work in house. Board would like to see the numbers and what is feasible that could happen. Board is open to the proposals without making a commitment.

Library: Jeannette announced that they had a very successful fundraiser for programs and the Trustees have decided to spend a portion of that money this year to hire a part-time Children's

Librarian. The rest of the money will be used general programing for the Library. All generous donations to the Library. Doon asked if Orca Media show up at the Library for their meetings. Jeanette stated that they are always welcome to. Doon asked also about the funding of the healthcare. Jeannette stated that the Trustees have decided to withdraw from the town BCBS policy in July and she will be going on Medicare at that point. There will be half of the money that was spent going towards the BCBS into an HRA supplement. Saving about 50% on those expenses. Unfortunately, that money has already been the savings. Advisement from their investment advisor that we are planning to withdraw too much money from the endowment fund in an unstainable amount so that savings will go towards that hole that would develop in our budget if we reduce that draw.

Constables:

Mark stated that April 27th at the Town Office from 10am to 2pm he will be there to collect unused prescription drugs. He has a lot of trainings coming up in the next month. He noted that there were concerns to the building in the basement and needing a humidifier to dry out the moisture.

Highway:

John noted that there were some truck issues and they are all back in service. He stated that we are headed into mud season and roads will be and issue and to be patient.

Utilities Operator:

Terry noted that the meters were just read. He noted that a couple had to be estimated because they couldn't be accessed with the snow. Tom asked how the PH levels are going in the wells and Terry noted that they were between 7.4 and 8, after dosing. Tom asked what difference he was seeing between the two wells. Terry stated that if it's running off well #2 he thought it was 7.4 and for the same dose of well #1 a lot of times its running between 7.8 and 8. Tom asked if he was dosing the same soda ash equation for both. Terry noted that there was no way to separate that. Discussion ensued.

New Business:

Doon stated that we have been working on new town policy for Polling place, parking lot and campaign sign rules. Pat added that on the Secretary of State site there was a comment that for the day of election the presiding officer (Town Clerk) can adopt a policy to allow signs to be placed in certain areas if they are applied evenly to all candidates. Basically, the Town Clerk can amend the rules on the day of the election as they see fit. She suggested that the policy as written add this additional comment to give clarity. Doon read the new policy (attached). Doon felt it didn't change what the policy stated. Discussion ensued. Doon moved to adopt the policy, Tom seconded, so voted.

Liquor license applications from the Huntington House Inn for renewal and for the outdoor for their deck outside. Doon motioned to approve, Tom seconded, so voted.

Doon stated that the Clean Harbors Environmental Services will need to pick another date for one of the two dates they will be picking up hazardous materials from the town. The August date coincides with our regular recycling day so they will need to choose another date.

Old Business:

Bruce gave a brief update to the missing book. He noted there were a lot of interesting books in the vault. He stated that he has the North & East wall of the vault completed and he is preparing an index for the Town Clerk of what books are there. He said it was interesting that a stenographer's books were found in between larger books and apparently it was misplaced for many years until Mary Davis located it and that was a Selectmen's minutes book from March of 1950 to July of 1952. He noted that it made him realize that he is not just looking for a ledger book, it may be in some other form. Discussion ensued.

Other Discussion:

Larry Creech asked if any effort been made for funds procurement for the West Hill Bridge. Doon stated that not at this time. The bridge has recently been inspected and approved by the state. Larry asked when that had been done and Tom noted that it is done every 5 years and recently was done around 2 years ago. Larry asked how the Wing Brook Bridge, how was that funded. Joan noted through the Clean Water Block Grant funds. Larry asked if there was any funding or grants for the West Hill Bridge. Doon noted that it is on our radar. Discussion ensued.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith