

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

January 11, 2016

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen, Robert Meagher, Joanne McDonnell

Guests: Martha Slater, Terry Severy, Joan Allen, Jeannette Bair, Dan Gendron, Jeremy Rathbun, Chuck Goodling, Nancy Woolley

Meeting called to order at 6:20 pm

Doon made motion to accept the minutes from the December 28, 2015 meeting, seconded by Robert. So voted

Guests: Jeremy Rathbun and Chuck Goodling of Dubois & King were invited here by Terry Severy. Jeremy worked with Phelps Engineering in the past and knows our sewer and water systems well. Jeremy noted that he has worked with the town before on past projects and since Phelps has now closed, he would like the opportunity to offer their assistance for upcoming water and wastewater projects. Robert noted he would like to see O&M documentation for the sewer sites that are missing it and asked if Jeremy would give a quote on updating documentation. Jeremy also noted they offer their help with the annual review, and the work that will need to be done on Site 3 (behind the Elementary school) sooner than later. Terry noted that if Site 3 fails, it will end our capacity for site 4. Jeremy will look into it further at the time they do the annual review this spring. Short discussion ensued.

Utility: Terry noted that there are only 4 meters left to be installed. He is able to get into one now, and two are out of town owners who will touch base with him to change when they are in town. He has 5 set aside for houses that currently have no usage. Robert noted that they should move forward this year with maintenance schedules for asset management. Short discussion on different valves that may help an upcoming reservoir project ensued.

Highway: nothing new to report

New Business: Becky Klein, Delinquent Tax Collector has requested that the Selectboard bid on a parcel at the tax sale on Friday, January 15, 2016. This parcel was up for tax sale last year as well, and no one bid on it so another year of taxes became delinquent. She believes that the only way to get this person to pay their taxes and redeem the property is to have the Selectboard bid on it. Other Town Clerks have said that their selectboards do this and Becky had some emails to present to the board regarding this. Short discussion ensued. Robert made

motion to appoint Joanne McDonnell, Town Clerk as agent to bid on the Gendron property on Friday, January 15, 2016, for the amount of delinquent taxes due, seconded. So voted.

The mowing contract for May-October 2016 was reviewed. Joanne needs to double check with the Library to see if Rich does the mowing for them. Terry noted that the slopes at the firehouse are not included, even though Mike did it. Robert noted that there have been discussions regarding having the 3rd highway member do the mowing. The "new park" should stay on a "per mowing basis" since the construction did not happen last summer but may happen this summer. Discussion ensued regarding having the road crew do the mowing. Jim noted that timewise, doing this job could be close to 7 hours per week if it's done correctly. The cost of a mower was discussed-it would be at least \$15,000. Discussion continued. Using a figure of about \$18/hour, Robert gave an approximate amount of \$3200 plus or minus. After further discussion, it was noted that this will be reviewed again with budget and finance.

It was mentioned that someone drove a snow machine over the reservoir. This is not acceptable, and Terry spoke with the person who lives at the house where the tracks originated. He will put the gate up again.

The plowing of the "loop" at the Federated Church was discussed. Per the prior road commissioner, the road crew stopped plowing the roadway from Rt 100 up in front of the sanctuary doors and back down to Rt 100. It was noted that this area should be plowed as the Church is a staging area for any school emergency. After short discussion, the board agreed that this should be plowed, and the road crew will continue to do this.

Robert mentioned to Joan Allen, Assistant that road grant applications should be arriving soon.

The special weight limits form for highways and bridges will be sent in with a notice that Rochester follows state standards.

The board reviewed and signed the Certificate of Highway Mileage form. Joanne will send back to AOT.

Joan Allen, Selectboard Assistant updated the board on a conversation she had with Steve Monahan of the Dept. of Labor. He confirmed that a Selectboard member is not covered under workers compensation as a town employee unless they are performing highway duties as a volunteer. In that case they would be covered in the event of injury.

Bids for the engineering phase of the West Hill Slide are due to Joan by noon on Friday, January 15th. Cricket will not be available for the bid opening, nor will Joan. The board will have a special meeting on Friday 1/15/16 at 4:30 pm to open them. Robert will participate by phone.

Joan noted that Rita Seto of TRORC sent a letter to the board regarding the culvert inventory report and the headline in the Herald that noted the board's disappointment in that report. She has offered to meet with Dan Gendron to go over the report and be sure he is getting what we want out of the project since he was unable to work with her during the actual inventory. Joan

noted that although the board did have issue with the results of the project, the headline was somewhat inflammatory and not nicely done. We work with TRORC and Rita quite often, and have been quite satisfied overall. Joan responded to Rita and let her know that the board would get back with her. Short discussion ensued. The board will reply directly to Rita with their apologies for the tone of the reporting in the January 7, 2016 edition. She noted that she, Larry and Dan will be meeting soon to discuss possible upcoming projects for 2016. Joan will look into the road inventory survey with VTRANS and see if we are able to do the inventory on our own or if we need to do it through the regional commission. Short discussion ensued.

Nancy Woolley asked Dan and Terry to submit their updated inventory reports ASAP.

Doon gave the other board members a draft of the Selectboard letter for the town report. They agreed to make this a combined Selectboard/Road Commissioner letter, and agreed to add more information regarding paving, grindings and the increase in the gravel expense. Doon will revise and resend.

Robert noted that Attorney Ren Barlow who is representing us in Linda and Larry Creech's suit regarding the closing of West Hill Road has touched base with their lawyer, and the appeal was never filed. The Creech's have noted their displeasure with the jersey barriers that are at the road, but Robert feels they are necessary. If the road does slide again, it will be closed. Discussion ensued. There was also a short discussion regarding the possibility of purchasing a camera to monitor truck traffic over Bethel Mtn Road.

Bills were reviewed, warrants signed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell