

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

March 09, 2020

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey (absent)

Guests: Nancy Woolley, Terry Severy, Joan Allen, Mason Wade, Walt Wells, Harland McKirryher, Martha Slater, Bruce Flewelling, Rob Gardner, Anni Mackay, John Champion, Kinley Tener, Vic Ribauda, Rachel Cunningham, Robert Meagher, Dean Mendell

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the Agenda: Harland- missing book.

Minutes approval were tabled till next meeting.

Joan Updates: Joan noted Bethel Mountain Road Federal Highway project submitted reimbursement for the town's direct expenses on February 26. This would include site 1, 1B and Site 2. The total amount submitted for reimbursement was in the amount of \$588,710.00. She noted most of which was engineering fees.

FEMA work that has been completed to date, as of last winter is still under review for reimbursement. She noted that the road crew will be starting up the work on the uncompleted work when Cooter is ready to start up this spring. She noted there are five roads that work still need to be done and this includes Maple Hill Road, Wing Farm Road, Jerusalem Road, Mt Cushman Road and Wes Young Road. She noted a couple awarded contracts that were not started late last year will be completed this year.

She noted two upper Bethel Mountain Road projects that are in the works for the coming season. One, she noted is the culvert on Rogers Brook which is near the Bethel line. She noted we should have word by May if the Better Roads Grant request will fund that project. She noted that its in the area of \$53,000.00. She noted we have a good chance of receiving the funding. In addition, the Mason Brook culvert, just below Terry's house was re-stabilized by FEMA money back in 2016 with the understanding that the culvert was going to be replaced. Cricket and Cooter looked at that recently and noted how much it is deteriorating. She noted Cricket is just finishing up the design work and the idea is that they discussed if the timing and funding work out, Joan would apply for a Structures Grant to do the construction on and bid out both jobs on Bethel Mountain Road to one contractor. She noted the difficulty to get a temporary by-pass around both projects and the complication around flaggers and traffic control.

Joan reminded the board that West Hill Bridge has a Green Mountain Forest Grant to get the engineering done for the replacement of the bridge. She noted that she has been working on the RFP and that is about ready to be advertised to put out to bid by the end of the week. She noted this is for the design work and will be ready for a bid process. She noted a few months ago she submitted a grant application for Federal Highway Administration Federal Lands access Grant. She noted this is a grant program specific to improve access to National forest land and other federally owned land. She noted that we received that grant to do the construction of the bridge which will happen in 2021.

She noted that she is also working on the annual VTrans Highway plan. She noted this is something we do every year where they go through the Highway budget and make plans with the town for the coming year.

She noted that the Mount Cushman culver replacement project has been in the works for a while now. The design was finished by Cricket last year and the bidding should take place sometime in April, or May at the latest. She noted there is a structure's grant to pay for 90% of what the cost will be. She noted that White River Partnership will pay for 10% of the match. She noted they will also cover some of the cost for construction management. She noted the Town will hold the contract and will work together with White River Partnership to put out the bid.

Lastly, Joan asked about the erosion along the brook line from the Town office down to the Park and Ride. She noted that the sewer line runs parallel along that brook line and noted that the concern for infrastructure to be compromised. Terry noted that down along the riverside by the Park and Ride the lines are not as close and are far enough away. She noted that the property owned by Ricky and Crissy Gaudette, was visited last year by Jaron Borg and he gave them permission to rip rap their bank. She noted that as we all know when you rip rap one area it just sends the problem farther down the stream. She noted that it would make sense to have Jaron Borg come in and inspect the situation along that whole stretch of brook site. Terry noted the one next to the Town office is in dire need to be fixed since its only a few feet from the pipes, which are exposed.

Dean asked Joan if she had given any updates to the Breakneck brook projects. He spoke about the issue he is going through and wondered if it has been addressed. Joan noted that last year a letter was received from VTrans noting they would address it. Dean asked if it could be addressed when she speaks with VTrans. He is concerned about any new storms that would flood out his property but also take out Rt. 100 as well.

Library Updates: Tony noted that there will be a trustee's meeting Tuesday evening at 6pm. He noted that on Thursday there will be a program dealing with horses and oxen on farms years ago that sounds very interesting. He noted the speaker is Carl Russell.

Highway Updates: Cooter noted that both trucks have returned, and he is ready for mud.

Utilities Updates: Terry noted that one of the leaks, at North Shore had been repaired. He noted there is still one more down by the Cemetery that will need to be addressed on Wednesday.

Doon invited Rachel to speak on behalf of Envision Rochester. She noted that she had just returned from a meeting in Stockbridge with the School board and wanted to update the selectboard with the initiative they have been working on with the school board. She noted the 5 different groups participating in a year long process, a community consensus process, noting that one of the groups consists of the repurposing of the School building. She noted that there is a site on the White River Valley Community calendar that will post these reports. She noted that the actions groups are setting short term, long term goals and priorities. She noted they help facilitate what the selectboard and town planning commission. She noted that the commerce group came out with some interesting initiatives about the impact on Airbnb's on the community. She noted that some research will be handed to Vic for revenue generation. She noted in her view it's the Selectboard's time to step up and embrace some of these initiatives or come up with some of their own. She noted maybe through the establishment of an economic development committee, that is accountable to the selectboard and therefore to the people, can get some momentum going.

Dean Mendell noted that in response to Racheal's announcement, that he expressed on the idea of possibly expanding the grant writing position in Rochester. He noted that there are areas of interest that need grant writing, such as the Recreation department. He noted that a lot of ideas that have cultivated and how the budget falls short for funding. He noted he would like to encourage the selectboard to expand the grant writing position to include some of the departments that are not getting funded in the tax base such as the skatespace, tennis courts etc. He noted that Doon mentioned at the pre-town meeting if there were any volunteers for grant writing. Dean strongly suggested to hire a high-end grant writer. He noted that we will spend money up front to get the funds to continue with other services.

Rachel continued discussion about the school board and that there is a building committee report in the works. She noted that there are two that they are combining, and they will be presented to the school board soon and have ready for public soon. She noted that the school board is working on identifying a facilitator who can do a public gathering for them sometime in May. She noted it will be a community meeting for both towns to come together and decide on the options for the former high school. Rachel noted some programs that Envision Rochester has been able to hash out with the school is to facilitate the donation of two series of literacy books. Both schools will be receiving both series. She asked if we had any sense of impact the new climate declaration volunteer committee would have on the school systems.

Terry noted the need for a grant writer to help with the Fire Department to help implement some of the grants out there that they could apply for.

Dean noted that he is attending a workshop for Grant writing at the Bethel University. He doesn't expect to come out an expertise but to gather information. Discussion ensued and the topic was all around supported and need to pursue.

Doon moved to appoint the positions and committees' members. The appointments are noted in the attached Town of Rochester Elected Officials.

Doon made a statement concerning the Coronavirus. He noted it will be posted on the Town website. He read the statement that is attached to the minutes. Mason asked if this statement could be written in The Herald. Mason made a request to encourage people to come to this meeting for the open position for appointments in the future.

Rob noted a great article in the Herald written by Josh White from Gifford Medical Center. He noted the seriousness of this virus. Vic noted the stats around the state and noted the seriousness as well.

Doon moved to approve a liquor and tobacco license for Mac's Valley Market. Frank seconded. So, approved.

Doon noted there were no new updates to the missing book.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith



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Rochester public advisory regarding the CoronaVirus

With widespread news coverage of the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid19) the Rochester Select Board has decided to make certain suggestions to inform residents regarding prudent actions to minimize community spread of the virus in our town. We have been in touch with Gifford Medical Center and the White River Valley Ambulance service as well as the State of Vermont and have established a local task force to coordinate efforts in town, particularly as it relates to our older residents (those most at risk). Please regularly check Front Porch Forum, the Town Website, and the Rochester Stockbridge Unified District Community Facebook page for further updates.

We should remember that Rochester is a tourist destination. Interstate travel on route 100 together with the number of Air B&B's, local shops, and restaurants means that we have a number of people of unknown origins in our town regularly.

The most vulnerable residents to the coronavirus are the elderly or those with pre-existing health conditions such as heart disease or a compromised respiratory system, so special care should be taken if you are one of these.

We suggest that any non-essential public events be cancelled, avoided or postponed for 30 days. Anyone developing cold or flu symptoms should self-quarantine at home for two weeks in order to avoid the possibility of spreading the virus into the community. It would also be prudent to make sure you have on hand two weeks of food staples and prescription medications in case of self-quarantine due to illness. A volunteer network is being organized to help deliver groceries or medications to people self-quarantining at home. If you are interested in volunteering for this effort, please contact the town clerk.

Symptoms

Please be conscious of any flu-like symptoms, including:

1. Sore throat
2. Cough
3. Fever
4. Difficulty breathing, lung congestion. Please note, lung congestion is the most serious symptom.

These are the recommendations from the Federal Government's CDC (Center for Disease Control):

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always

recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Should it be determined that you need testing, the US Government has released this assurance that Medicare will cover the cost of testing:

Your Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers a test to see if you have Coronavirus. This test is covered when your doctor or a health care provider orders it, if you get the test on or after February 4, 2020. You usually pay nothing for Medicare-covered clinical diagnostic laboratory tests.

Important phone numbers:

Town Office 802 767 3631

Gifford Medical Center main number 802 728 7000

Rochester/Gifford Clinic 802 767 3704

White River Ambulance 911

Important Websites:

giffordhealthcare.org/coronavirus-covid-19,

Town of Rochester Elected Officials

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Moderator	Dan McKinley	2021
Selectboard:	Patricia Harvey	2021
	Doon Hinderyckx, Chair	2022
	Frank Severy	2023
Town Clerk	Julie Smith	2021
Town Treasurer	Julie Smith	2021
Listers:	Jessica Arsenault	2021
	Caroline Meagher	2022
	Louis Donnet	2023
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Rebecca Klein	2021
Library Trustees:	Lyn Moltz	2021
	Barbara Shenton	2022
	Jolanta Labejsza	2023
	Kelly Kelly	2024
	Anthony Goupee	2025
Trustees of Public Funds:	Barbara Dehart	2021
	Ann Pierce	2022
	Michael Harvey	2023
Cemetery Commissioners:	Joe Schenkman	2021
	Joan K. Hubbard	2022
	Thomas Paquette	2023
	Nancy Woolley	2024
	Marvin Harvey	2025
Agent to Prosecute & Defend Suits	Bill Matthews	2021
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Pat Harvey	2021
Justices of the Peace	Kevin Dougherty	Feb. 1, 2021
	Michael Harvey	Feb. 1, 2021
	Joan "Java" Hubbard	Feb. 1, 2021
	Rebecca Klein	Feb. 1, 2021
	Annette "Sugie" West	Feb. 1, 2021
Board of Civil Authority	Town Clerk, Selectboard, Justices of the Peace	Term Expiration
Windsor-Rutland Rep. Windsor County Senators	Sandy Haas Alison Clarkson Richard McCormack Alice Nitka	

Appointments

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Asst. Town Clerk/Treasurer	Rebecca Klein	2021
Selectboard Clerk	Julie Smith	2021
Administrative Asst. to Selectboard	Joan Allen	
Law Enforcement	Windsor County Sheriff's Dept.	Contract
Constable	Dillon Dudley	2021
2 nd Constable	vacant	
LEPC #12 (Local Emer. Plan. Comm)	vacant	2020
Planning Board & Board of Adjustment	Eric Bowman	2021
	Greg White	2021
	David Curtis	2022
	Joan Pontious	2022
	Dan McKinley	2023
	Sandy Haas	2024
	Julie Martin	2024
Doon Hinderyckx		ex officio
Zoning Administrator	Doon Hinderyckx	2021
Fire Chief (elected by Fire Dept)	Terry Severy	2020/12
First (elected by Fire Dept)	Raymond Harvey	2020/12
Second (elected by Fire Dept)	Kevin Dougherty	2020/12
Fire Warden	Ray Harvey	2022/6/30
Water Commissioners	Selectboard	2021
Sewer Commissioners	Selectboard	2021
Road Commissioner	Doon Hinderyckx	2021
Road Department:	John Champion, Foreman	
	Dana Spalding	
	Ted Smith	
Sewer Plant Operator	Terry Severy	
Assistant	Dana Spalding	
Water Plant Operator	Terry Severy	
Assistant	Dana Spalding	
On-Site Wastewater Officer	Doon Hinderyckx	2021
On-Site Wastewater Officer	Frank Severy	2021
TRORC Transportation/Planning Rep.	Anni Mackay	2021
TRORC Transportation Adv. Comm.	Doon Hinderyckx	2021
Health Officer	John White	2021/10/31
Town Service Officer	Paula Dougherty	2021
Emergency Management Director	Vic Ribaud	2021
Emergency Management Alternate	Doon Hinderyckx	2021
Emergency Management Coordinator	Rob Gardner	2021
Energy Coordinator	Marvin Harvey	2021
Bethel/Royalton Solid Waste Advisory Comm.	Marvin Harvey	2021
Recycling Coordinator	James Bowen	2021
Park Committee:	Martha Slater	2021
Recreation Committee:	Norm Christiansen	Caitlin Cutting
	Rachael Cunningham	Carrie McDonnell
	Dean Mendell	Joe Schenkman
	Martha Slater	Meg Brown
	Walter Pruiksma, Tennis	
Animal Control Officer/ Poundkeeper/Humane Officer	vacant	2020

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Stagecoach Representative	Timothy Crowley	2021
White River Valley Amb. (WRVA) Rep	Vic Ribaldo	2021
WRVA Alternate	James Bowen	2021
Tree Warden	Norman R. Smith	2021
E-911 Maintenance	Angus McCusker	2021
Green-Up Day Coordinators	Nick Piccicuto	2021
Budget & Finance Comm.	Lois Bond	2020
	Barb Dehart	2020
	Robert Meagher	2020
	Greg White	2020
	Jim Bowen	2020
	Rob Gardner	2020
	Vic Ribaldo	2020
	Nancy Woolley	2020
	Selectboard Members	2020
Quintown Energy Committee	Jeff Gephart	2021
Website Administrator	Norm Christiansen	2021
Scenic By-Way Representative	Larry Plesent	2021
ECFiber Representative	John White	2021
Librarian	Jeannette Bair	
Assistant Librarian		
Children's Librarian		
Auditors	Pace & Hawley, LLC	
Official Newspaper	<i>The Herald of Randolph</i>	2021
Videography - Meetings	Orca Media	

Dates to Remember

Selectboard Meeting	Second & Fourth Monday of month at Town Office. Other meetings at Town Office as warned.	6:15 PM
Planning Commission	First Tuesday of month at Town Office.	6:00 PM
Trustees of Public Funds	Meetings when needed – Will be posted	
Recreation Committee	Fourth Wednesday every other month at Town Office January, March, May, July, September, November	7:00 PM
Dog Licenses (State Mandated)	<p>On or before April 1: Rabies shots good for 3 years. Male & Female: \$11.00; altered: \$7.00</p> <p>After April 1, the fee is increased 50%: Male & Female \$15.00; altered \$9.00</p> <p><u>*After April 1 there is a \$5.00 fine for all unlicensed dogs.</u> <u>**No Exceptions**</u></p> <p>A leash and fouling law is in effect for the entire Town, not just the village area. See Ordinance at Town Office.</p>	
Recycling	First and Third Saturday of each month at Town Office parking lot.	
Property Taxes	<p>1/4 due on/before Friday, August 14, 2020; 1/4 due on/before Monday, November 16, 2020; 1/4 due on/before Tuesday, February 16, 2021; 1/4 due on/before Monday, May 17, 2021.</p> <p>Interest at rate of 1% per month for 3 months, and 1 ½% per month thereafter added. 8% collection fee added May 17, 2021. <u>Postmarks not accepted!</u></p>	
Water & Sewer User Fees:	<p>¼ due January 31; ¼ due April 30; ¼ due July 31; ¼ due October 30. Due no later than the above effective dates. Interest at rate of 1% per month for 3 months and 1 ½% per month thereafter added for delinquent water/sewer fees.</p>	

Winter Parking Ordinance: No person shall park a motor vehicle on any street or in any public parking area within the Town of Rochester between the hours of 12:00 AM and 6:00 AM from November 1 to April 1 inclusive.