

## Virtual Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2020

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Orca Media, Martha Slater, Joan Allen, Kristen LaPell, Nancy Woolley, Kinley Tener, Bruce Flewelling, Sue Ribauda, Kristen, and Julie Smith

Doon called the meeting at 6:02 pm

Doon read the State statute guidelines for holding a proper meeting electronically and confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

**Additions:** none

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** Doon moved to approve the July 27, 2020 Selectboard minutes with one correction. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

**Guests:** Sue Ribauda made a small request for White River Valley Players to use the stick figure people from the Fourth of July displayed on the Park, to be used once again during the Harvest Fair week with a sign "See you here next year". Doon noted they will need to fill out a formal Park Use Form.

**Joan Updates:** Joan noted the Emergency Watershed Program on the Mendell property with NRCS she had finished writing the application on their behalf. She noted the Mendells' should know soon if they will be receiving the grant. She will notify any updates.

She noted she is still working with the FEMA field rep for reimbursements from the April 15, 2019 storm for the completed roads and finish up the information for the Brook Street retaining wall, which will not be done until next year. She noted there will be some reimbursement for the work that has been done on the incomplete roads. She noted it is in process and should be coming soon.

The reimbursement for the Bethel Mountain Road is also still in the works. She spoke with someone from VTrans three weeks ago who had to submit a grant amendment application to the Federal Highway Administration due to sending the application very early on in the project not knowing the scope of work at that time.

Joan noted she had not heard if VTrans if they will be funding any of their grant programs this year. She noted a couple projects they had hoped to do from early on in May and with it getting late in the year she believes they will not be doing them but will confirm if she receives word back.

She noted discussions are continuing with some landowners associated with the Mt. Cushman culvert replacement. She noted that she will set up a meeting with one of the landowners soon and Frank will be attending.

She noted that no bids were submitted for the Town Garage Stormwater project. She spoke with WRP and they agree to postpone another round of bidding till next year. She noted the grant is good through 2021, which will give them time to work out the details needed. She noted they

will regroup in the fall with Cooter to work out the issues and be prepared to go out to bid in January-February of next year.

She noted they are still working on the Henry property tree planting. She noted it will take place next spring rather than this fall. After numerous calls out to various nurseries, wholesale and retail, there have low inventory of 6' trees. She noted she has a local contractor to do the work when the trees are purchased.

She noted in regard to the West Hill Bridge Project they recently had a meeting that Pat also attended. She noted there were two design alternatives that were submitted as well as doing nothing and repair existing bridge. Neither of the alternatives were accepted. Alternative three was discussed and consisted of a precast, restressed concrete slab bridge and their estimated cost was 1.2 million dollars. Alternative four consisted of a steel beam structure with a concrete deck and was estimated slightly lower at just over a million dollars. The last two alternatives are slightly more than what the town will be given from the US Forest Service. Brian Austin noted they had not considered a lot of pre-construction costs in the whole construction budget. She noted VHB will have to go back and recalculate the construction cost which will be slightly less, but considerably more than the \$650,000.00 we believe is committed to us for the grant agreement. She noted after speaking with Brian about that, he feels certain that Forest Service will come up with some other funding sources if the Federal Highway Grant program does not increase the amount. She will keep us updated.

Lastly, she and Cricket made a site visit with Shawn the Geo Tech engineer from the Bethel Mountain Road Project, to the spot on the Henry property that causes some potential slope failure, maybe not soon but possibly in the future. She noted it was discovered late in the process of the Bethel Mountain Repair project. She noted that Shawn feels a certain amount of uncertainty about what might happen in the future with the big storms. She asked Shawn to put together a memo that describes a little bit of the history about how this was first discovered, what he feels the issues are going forward, what the risks are, and what he feels ought to be done in the near term and down the road, if it does appear the slope is unstable. She noted with this documentation if something down the road happens, we have it noted so that VTrans would have to provide funding because it is stability of Bethel Mountain Road.

**Highway:** Doon noted the highway crew have been doing the roadside mowing. He noted spots look scarified. He noted he was not sure if it was up to the landowner or crew to clean it up but would check into that. He noted Cooter is on vacation right now. Frank thought any stumps in front of people's homes should be cleaned up. He also thought they should clean out the ditches before storms come. Doon noted they would have to do a pre-winter checking the culverts and ditches and can get things cleaned up. He noted the goal is to get the mowing done in the period that they have the machine and then go back and do the cleanup.

**Utilities:** Doon noted that a customer had a significant leak in one of his apartments and asked for a little leniency on his bill. Frank noted after speaking with Terry, we need to be a little more aggressive to get word out to the owners of apartment rentals that are on town water systems to do their own meter checks and make sure they are watching for excess water use. He noted the meters are digital and can be read. Frank noted anyone having a failure, noting this customer took care of his failure right off the bat, a onetime waiver is acceptable and be on a warning

system. Doon noted an agreement can be done as it has in the past. Doon noted in the past they would allow to split the difference.

**New Business:**

**Approval of Appointment of Assistant Clerk** Doon noted we need to have a suggestion for Assistant Clerk/Treasurer. Julie suggested hiring Kristen Lapell. Doon noted how well it worked with Kristen LaPell on election night, counting and helping. Doon noted she would have to fill out an application and Julie noted she had an application on file. Frank noted discussion about increasing the assistants' hours to 25. Julie noted that Becky could only work 17 hours with her schedule currently. Julie asked if the hours could be increased to 25 to fill the need. Doon noted that he was in favor of that. Pat noted that Kristen has taken an accounting course to better prepare her for the role and noted she is a good candidate for the position.

**Authorizing Jeff Gephart to access the GMP town's digital files:** Doon moved to authorize Jeff to have the access to this information. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved. Jeff noted he would also be using the usage files from the Efficiency Vermont records. Doon modified his decision to include Efficiency Vermont's digital records as well. Pat seconded. All were in favor. So, voted.

Rob Gardner spoke about the speed sign from the South end of town. He is need of the model number to get the sign up and working again.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Smith