

## Virtual Selectboard Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2020

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Guests: Martha Slater, Nancy Woolley, Joan Allen, Troy & Kristen LaPell, Orca Media, Jeff Gephart., Julie Smith, Keith Szulecki and Tim Pratt

Doon called the at 6:00 pm

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

**Additions:** no additional additions

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** Doon moved to approve the 11-09-2020 Selectboard minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

**Joan Updates:** Joan noted she filed for the NRCS Emergency Watershed project reimbursement. She noted Frank signed the form today. She noted several may have received the email from Two Rivers, they are offering information for in the event of COVID affecting any members of the road crew to get sick during the busy season this winter needing to quarantine. She noted towns are signing mutual aid agreements with other towns to help with manpower. Joan noted if there was interest, she would put that together. Doon noted it would be wise to reach out to larger, more local companies to fill this need. Doon noted this is a perfect time to discuss this instead during a big storm.

**Approval of Class 4 Highway Winter Maintenance Application:** Doon noted this is the second time around for Kenny Beattie to apply for and was approved last year. Doon noted that there was not a problem last year. Doon moved to approve the application. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

**Vacancy on Cemetery Commission:** Nancy noted Java Hubbard resigned on October 30<sup>th</sup> and has put in approximately 35 years on the committee. Nancy noted her term extends to 2022. She noted they are looking for an appointment to fill her spot until the next town Meeting on March 1 and at that time we would vote to fill her term until 2022 and at that time find some one to fill a 5-year position. Doon noted this discussion will be moved to Old Business at the next Selectboard meeting. Nancy announced how thankful the committee was to have Java for at least 3 decades of minute taking for the committee.

**Adopt Australian Ballot for Town Meeting:** Frank read an opening statement in response to COVID-19, the Vermont Legislature passed 162, allowing towns by vote of its legislative body the right to adopt the use of Australian ballot for any town meeting annual or special for the year 2021. He continued, the general subjects the law enables Towns to adopt are election of officials, all budget articles, appropriations, and petitions. He opened to discussion and noted the board is only taking the first step as the information will continue to bring forth directives from the state. Martha asked if we vote by Australian ballot would we not have any meeting at all. Frank noted we will still have to have a Pre-town and Town meeting as the information becomes available.

Frank asked Shall the Town of Rochester by vote of its legislative body, elected town officials, adopt all budget articles, all appropriations and petitions signed by 5% of the registered voters by Australian ballots for 2021? Doon moved to adopt. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Nancy noted any individual will need to sign a consent form and have into the Town Clerk no later than the sixth Monday before the Town Meeting which is somewhere around the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. Frank noted the consent form did not require any signatures. Nancy noted this will allow anyone running for office will get their name on the ballot.

**Social Service Agency Requirements for Appropriations for Town Meeting:** Nancy noted the town policy will not be waived for the requirement for a petition. Nancy noted all agencies have been received.

**Mowing Contracts FY22:** Doon asked if this was a reminder. Julie noted the contract expires in November 2021, the next coming year and working with B&F we will need to be reminded.

Jeff noted he is intending to look at the potential of mowing electronically. He noted the equipment is coming on the market. He asked how many acres of mowing the town has. He also asked how many years the contracts cover. Pat noted last year at Town Meeting it was voted to make decisions in town's decisions relating to Climate Change in mind. Jeff noted once he has the acreage the town mows, he can start the process of analyzing cost for electric mowers and compare with contracted costs.

**Sidewalk Plowing Contract:** This contract will expire in 2022 so we are all set.

Jeff noted he will be working on the CV Oil fuel costs on buildings.

Doon wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm and will go into executive session for employee discussion.

Executive session ended at 6:55pm with the board finishing employee reviews and ready for signatures

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith