

Virtual Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Guests: Martha Slater, Orca Media, Julie Smith, Rob Gardner, Nancy Woolley, Kristen & Troy LaPell, Joan Allen, Tim Pratt, Tony Goupee, and Jeff Gephart.

Doon called the meeting at 6:00 pm

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

Prior Meeting Minutes: January 11, 2021 Selectboard Meeting minutes and January 21, 2021 Special Selectboard Meeting minutes. Frank noted a statement needs to be added to the January 11 minutes that the selectboard is not responsible for meeting with Zoning about the sub-division with the School. Pat noted a couple typos. Doon moved to approve the minutes with the corrections and added statement. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Doon noted the minutes for the Special Selectboard meeting had some corrections as well. Doon noted to approve the minutes with the corrections. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Joan noted she is still working on FEMA paperwork. Frank asked if she had spoke to the State after their recent walk-through addressing trouble spots in town prior to paving. Joan noted she sent full report to Chris Bump last week. She noted the next step is they will need to go and do their own site inspection.

Library Updates: Tony noted the Library is still doing a porch pick-up. Tony noted that Lynn Moltz is retiring and there will be an open position on the Board of Trustees. He noted that Sandy Lincoln is interested in filling that spot. Doon noted we will have to get the information out to the public.

Highway Updates: Doon noted with the last wet heavy snow storm a couple of the trucks went off the road with minimal damage. He noted they will be ready for the next upcoming storm.

New Business: Town Meeting voting by Australian Ballot: Frank noted there will be two informational meetings with the first on Monday, February 22 at the beginning of the regular Selectboard meeting and the second will be on Thursday, February 25 and both will be starting at 6 pm. Frank noted an Agenda will be posted for the informational meeting with links to join. They will be all around town and on the website. Frank noted the ballots have been sent to press. Frank noted there are 32 articles and one question. He noted 11 of them are for elected officials, and 2 are to change the Clerk/Treasurer to a 3-year term and 18 are articles are devoted to budget and money issues. Nancy noted on the informational meetings we were advised by the Town attorney that the informational meetings are strictly for financial discussions and not for candidate discussions. She noted those who would like to run need to get their write-ins in. She noted Jim Barlow said that this is not a candidates' forum. She noted on the agenda the candidates are not listed. Julie noted they could be discussed at the selectboard following the informational meeting. Doon noted it could be added to the agenda. Rob asked if invitations to those meeting will be sent out. Nancy noted they will be in the town reports and warned around

town. Julie noted she will send out the notification with the link to those who request it. Martha asked how the voting can be done. Julie noted it is set up just like the elections. You may request a ballot and one can be mailed or you can come in and do early voting. You can drop your ballot in the drop box at the office, or you can come down to the school on Monday from 10am-7pm to vote in person. Frank noted we should also note that there is a School Vote on Tuesday, March 2 and will be handled the same way except the voting in person place will be at the Town Office.

Pat made an announcement on the subject of election procedures, she noted the selectboard would like to practice transparency and provide a follow up statement to concerns raised by Robert Franks on the September 28, 2020 selectboard meeting. She noted the following statement was provided by Robert to the selectboard and the town. Pat read the statement, which is attached.

Rob made a comment. He noted this week they will be fundraising to build replacement structures at the schools so they can hold snow. He noted a donor has provided for 2 structures. One in Stockbridge and the other in Rochester. He noted they will be assembled by volunteers and each town will fundraise for the remaining structure. He noted information and videos will be circulating. Rob noted the building are done through Greg Ryan Structures. He noted Greg is working with Cricket to make sure they clear state code for snow load. He noted the first couple will be put up in the next couple weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Smith

On the subject of election procedures, the select board would like to practice transparency and provide a follow up statement to concerns raised by Robert Franks in our Sept 28, 2020 select board meeting.

Robert Franks provided this statement:

I want to THANK the Town of Rochester, Vermont for taking heed to the Law of Our State, Your Town, and Our Voting District to make certain that proper Voting Station Laws were put forth in the Proper "US" way. With confidence, I trust that all "Boards of Civil Authorities" in Our Voting District take responsibility to ensure their "oath" is responsible, knowledgeable, enduring and abiding by the Vermont Constitution, Our US Constitution and Our Freedoms (of Speech)

Pat Harvey added:

Also, thanking the Rochester Board of Civil Authority for their multiple and continual efforts and meetings to keep our town government ahead of and complaint with the ever-changing laws related to the election process.