

February 22, 2021

Selectboard Meeting

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy, Dan McKinley, Julie Smith, Kristen and Troy LaPell, Martha Slater, Orca Media, Nancy Woolley, Doreen Jones, Gerry Carlo, Sandra Haas, Mary McGrath, Jeannette Bair, Tony Goupee, Jeff Gephart, Lizzy Shackelford, Vic and Sue Ribaldo, Deb Moore, Barb Dehart, Lois Bond, Rob Gardner, Manzanita Sanz, Joan Hubbard, Nancy Vadnais, Joan Allen

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the February 11, 2021 minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Joan noted she heard back from the State for the reimbursement for the Bethel Mountain. She noted they will split the amount in half and send along a wire transfer for \$170,000 sometime soon.

She noted she has been working on the grant for the Town Office back up generator. She wasn't sure if they were in a position to put in the application for March 5 but would keep the board posted.

She noted she received information from VTrans, they would have a round of grants this year for Class 2 Road and for Structures Grants due April 15th. She will be resubmitting the 2 grant requests from last year. The first one will be for the culvert replacement on Nason Brook on Bethel Mountain Road near Terry Severy's house. The second will be for culvert replacement design work for a culvert on Town Line Road. She noted in previous years there is a VTrans meeting to discuss the town's hopes and desires for road repair work. She noted they are looking at the financial plan. She noted the appointments will be in the future. She noted prior to the meeting there are documents she will need to provide including the town's financial plan which is based on the budget once passed at the Town Meeting.

Doon noted an email late in the day for the paving from Stockbridge to Rochester and it stated there will be a grinding of the blacktop which initially thought was just the black top skimming so that was good to hear.

Library Updates: Tony noted things are still the same with the porch pick up. Tony thanked Doon for his comment on level funding of the Library.

New Business: Elected Positions

Doon asked if there were any questions. Doon asked Pat if she was still running. Pat noted she was. Doon noted there was not a position with anyone running against anyone. Pat noted there is a write in section for all of candidates. Pat noted she was interested in the selectboard position lending a hand with her experience in real estate issues around the future of the high school building.

Pat read down the positions on ballot.

Nancy noted there is an individual running for the 5-year position as the Library Trustee. She noted Sandy Lincoln would like to run for that position.

Pat noted there is an open position for the Cemetery Commissioner. Nancy noted Joe Schenkman would like to run for that position and would appreciate his name as a write in. Frank noted Ray Harvey also expressed interest in the position. Nancy noted Joe was interested in running for the 5-year position and the second open position, Michele Schnabel was completing Javas seat, will be running for the 4-year position. Nancy noted her name is on the ballot.

Doon noted you can go to the School on Monday to vote or request a ballot from the Town Office. Julie noted the School Ballots will be available on voting day Monday and the voting will take place on Tuesday at the Town Office from 10am-7pm.

Jeff noted with the Tri-Town Energy Committee consisting of Town of Hancock, Town of Pittsfield and Town of Rochester met in December. He noted they agreed to meet monthly. He noted they were initially supported by TRORC (Two River Ottaquechee Regional Committee) and only had support for the month getting the agreement together and met with one meeting. Jeff noted the second meeting in January, had not been properly warned in Hancock so they rescheduled a week later. He noted he didn't get any response. Jeff noted a third meeting in February and didn't have any response again. He noted in the agreement if any town would like to remove themselves, they can give a 30-day notice. He noted he wondered if it would be best to continue to work on the towns' energy use. Doon thanked Jeff for his time and the Selectboard will draft a letter to remove themselves. Doon noted it would be best for him to work on the towns' energy costs.

Robert noted Stockbridge is approaching its voting point about the demerger and there has been a lot of politicking over there. He asked if this is the selectboard or school boards' business if the vote is voted down to educate the public. Doon noted they are waiting for the school board to present it to them. He noted if they turn down the union, then it is on Rochester plate to also respond to that and have a vote. Doon noted we are not trying to get too worked up on it. Doon noted the School Board has officially requested the Town of Rochester to nay or yay buying the high school building by the 19th. Doon noted the board worked with the Town attorney to draft a letter requesting to postpone the deadline in light of the vote in Stockbridge to possibly dissolve the merger and they have accepted our request the deadline out until April. Doon noted there will be some cause for some special town meetings to come up with the towns input on that. Doon noted this is not the decision the board will make on behalf of the town. He noted this is a bigger issue. Jeff noted Amy Wildt has provided him with the energy consumption and costs for the school. He noted he will review and find out what the expenses have been for the high school, as well as the elementary.

Doon noted we are having another opportunity to have an informational meeting for Thursday, February 25 at 6pm through Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith