

March 22, 2021

Selectboard Meeting

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Jeff Gephart, Martha Slater, Tony Goupee, Kristen and Troy LaPell, Bruce Flewelling, Orca Media, Joan Allen, Nancy Woolley, Nancy Vadnais, Julie Smith

Doon called the meeting at 6:01pm

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

Additions to the Agenda: Pat-Sharing upcoming meetings; Jeff-data for high school energy use

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve March 08, 2021. Pat seconded. All in favor so approved.

Guest Speaker: Martha: Martha spoke about the fourth of July parade. She is waiting to hear back to the guidelines for having a town parade. She asked the selectboard for their input. Doon asked how far in advance she would need to plan the event. Martha noted she would need a decision by the first of May to send out the invitation letters. Doon felt we could wait another month to see the governor's advice and state guidelines.

Joan Updates: Joan noted she just finished all the financial reports and various documents that need to file with VTrans following their annual meeting. She noted she will need the board signatures for the docs to be sent electronically.

Frank noted he met Chris Bump from VTrans for a site visit pertaining to the storm drains and noted he was under the impression the town would incur the cost of raiding the storm drains. Frank noted he would get in touch with Terry about the cut-offs and parts for the storm drains. Frank noted the state will be replacing 30 culverts this summer before they pave next year.

Doon asked what is coming up. Joan noted she will be putting out the bids for the rest of the FEMA jobs beginning of April. She noted she will be coordinating with the bid that goes out for the retaining wall by the Town Office. She noted she is resubmitting two structures grants that were submitted last year. She noted they are due on April 15. She noted she is still working on FEMA stuff.

Library Updates: Tony noted the porch pick up is continuing. There will be more opening as time progresses. He noted to keep an eye on the paper, website, and bulletin boards for updates.

2nd Class Liquor License approval for Mac's Valley Market: Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Driveway Permit Approval: Jeff Peck is looking to put a driveway off Austin Hill. Board would like John Champion to approve the location. Doon moved to approve with conditions of ownership of the property. Doon noted also to include Cooter for approval of location, as well. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Energy Review: Jeff Gephart spoke on the heating costs for the high school. He noted there are some figures he still is investigating. There are two tanks in question. He noted there are fluctuation figures in some of the years that will still need some calculating. He noted the costs include years 2017-2020. Jeff noted some odd heating costs in 2017. He noted the electrical costs were \$19,000.00 and the oil costs were \$49,000.00. He noted then in 2018, the electrical expenses went up to almost \$34,000 and the oil costs went down to \$34,000. He wanted to review the reason for the fluctuation in costs each year. He noted the numbers are split fiscal year and not calendar year. He wondered if hearing degree days would be the difference in costs.

Selectboard approval to submit a high school building planning grant application and to hold a public hearing about the grant on April 8: Pat noted there will be a couple meetings this week. She noted the next day there would be a meeting with a couple of the school board members also looking for their support for the selectboard to obtain the planning grant. She noted there is an approval for a planning grant to hire somebody to really put forth the ideas for the school. She noted the need for the square footage, and perhaps even the energy cost. She noted they would help with the requirements as a commercial space. She noted there were a couple meetings around community development, and this is the first step towards the planning grant. She noted the requirement for the grant is to have a public hearing to take place and that it will be an informational with opinions and input from the public. She noted this funding would not cost the taxpayers to explore the repurposing ideas the committee has come up with. Doon noted this is the selectboard voicing their concern, but it really comes from the schoolboard. Jeff noted the form for the grant has the question where you can identify you do not own the building yet and the current owner is approving it. The selectboard is submitting the application with support from the school boards and the support of Vermont Council of Rural Development who is providing the grant as the writer of the grant. Doon noted he expressed the boards support for the application for the grant. Frank noted it would better educate ourselves. Doon moved to approve the letter of support on behalf of the town. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Pat noted on Wednesday she was meeting with Joan Goldstein who is the Commissioner of Economic Development. She noted they will discuss new money coming to the municipalities from the recent COVID grant. She noted they are waiting for the guidance on how the money can be used.

Frank noted there should be a change for the appointments for Jeff to be the Energy Coordinator. Doon moved to re coordinate the Energy Coordinator from Marvin Harvey to Jeff Gephart. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Jeff noted he is working on a Mow Electric Campaign day. He noted they would adhere to the state guidelines. He noted this is a statewide campaign that has been developed. He noted there are some statewide producers that some of the best of the commercial electric mowing equipment and noted they would like to get in some residential electric equipment as well. He noted the likelihood with the vendors is a two-year conversion process. He noted he wants to look at the next town mowing contract. He would like to hold a mowing demonstration in May, early June. Board noted the best place to hold the event would be the ball fields. Doon supported the event depending on the date.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

Doon moved to go into executive session at 6:41. Doon noted Pat will work with Jim Barlow, Town Attorney to request an extension deadline with the purchase of the school. Executive session ended at 7:01pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Smith