

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Nancy Woolley, Tony Goupee, Kristen LaPell, Terry Severy, Walt Wells, Gideon, Larry Straus, Julie Smith, Harland Mckirryher

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca Media, Aaron Lamperti, Jeffrey Gephart, James Harrington, Joan Allen,

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the agenda: Harland-missing book update

Doon moved to approve the June 14, 2021, Selectboard minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved. Doon also moved to approve the June 22, 2021, Special Selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Joan Updates: Joan noted she would open the bids for the Town Office retaining wall project. She said there were only 3 bids submitted.

Mangan Excavation LLC submitted their bid amount of \$ 56,321.00.

Harveys Plumbing and Excavating submitted their bid in the amount of \$ 49,385.50.

ECS Excavating LLC submitted their bid in the amount of \$ 28,788.00.

Joan noted that she advised the bidders a decision would not be made today so the engineer, Cricket can do an analysis of the bids and decide in the next week in a special meeting with the selectboard. Doon added a decision to postpone the project would be discussed since the project would need another source of funding.

Frank asked if Joan had spoke to Cricket about the signed package about the closing of the Bethel Mountain Road for the Nason Brook project. Joan had spoke with the contractor and they planned on three weeks for the closing of the road. Doon explained that the Bethel Mountain Road will be closed to through traffic on both sides for the construction to take place. Doon added, the Town of Bethel will coordinate their road work also to take place while the road is closed.

Energy Coordinator Updates: Jeff invited Aaron Lamperti and James Harrington, engineers from EEI to speak to the board about conducting an energy audit on the town facilities. The attentive date for the audit is July 13. The process they would undertake would be to audit all the buildings with a proposal of their findings. They explained the process and the outcome would include a signed contract for scope of the work. Aaron said ideally you look for improvements that would pay for the project. He shared if the project is large then it could be financed. James explained EEI works with the clients to find funding through various grants. James stated the walk through has no cost to the town, but the findings would allow the town to decide how small

or how large of a project they would be interested in and to know the larger the project the more easily the funding for grants can become available. Larry reminded the board the library had a significant renovation within the past 8 years with an energy audit. Pat made a motion to have EEI do an audit walk through on July 13. Doon seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Jeff also shared that he had been asked by Pittsfield and Hancock to restart the Tri-Town Municipal Energy committee. He said he would define everyone's responsibilities on the committee across the three towns. He will need to submit a legal warning notice in the paper and the expense it would incur. Doon asked Jeff to provide the text and the town would be happy to handle the notice and the cost to publish it in the paper.

Library Updates: Tony shared the library is open for browsing. Tony requested that you call ahead to make an appointment or email to reduce congestion in the building. Tony announced the library is hosting a free Johnson and Johnson vaccination clinic on July 9th from 3-6pm for those who are 18 or older.

Highway Updates: Doon shared Cooter's research on purchasing a new truck. He received a quote from Mack in the amount of \$123,967.78 and would not be able to order until December which means it would not be ready for this coming winter season. He also received a quote from Western Star in the amount of \$132,314.00 and would be able to get this truck within this plow season. Doon shared that they do have a truck ordered from Western Star with our name penciled on it. He said the body from TECO is just a little over \$70,000.00 which includes the wing and plow hitch. Doon said one factor is the timing and when it will be available. Doon said the warranty on the Western Star is better and service is closer. Cooter's preference is the Western Star. Pat asked if we are trading any of the trucks. Doon said Cooter prefers not to trade in any trucks with the situation of lack of spare parts right now when trucks are down there are no guarantees to get one on as a spare. Doon noted the trade in value on the truck is \$45,000.00. Frank thought a decision with Budget and Finance would be beneficial. Terry asked where it would be stored. Pat thought it should be tabled to think more on it and put it on the next agenda for a decision. The board all agreed.

Utilities Updates: Terry stated he received the attentive report for the spring walk around. He said the sewer pumps at the tennis courts are weak, but they are just as good as they were last year. He said that its coming that the town will be written up to replace the pumps and figured this will happen at the next walk around. Terry can order the pumps now and figures it will be six months before they arrive. He would like to wait to see by fall if the prices will fall some. Pat felt it would be a gamble with the suggested ARPA money purchasing pumps for their infrastructure improvement. Terry said two years ago when he bought the failing one it was \$20K so they will cost that or more now and the cost did not include installation. He said this time the wiring will need to be redone. The wiring will need to come out of the hole. Terry said he would make some calls to see how hard they are to get and the timing on them.

Renewing the Mascoma Loan: Doon moved to sign the agreement for the Change in Terms to allow for the remaining FEMA work to be covered. The note is for another year at the 2.5%, which is considered the emergency rate and will stay the same from the previous year. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Doon moved to approve the Disbursement request and

Authorization for the tax amount on the new balance of the loan in the amount of \$3,260.37. Pat seconded. All in favor, so voted. Frank asked if they would need to sign a new note, because of the recent payment made. Julie will look into it.

ARPA rename position of Representative: Doon noted at the last selectboard meeting it was decided to name Larry Straus as the ARPA representative but as more information has become available, a selectboard member should be that representative to sign the paperwork and such. Doon noted Pat showed enthusiasm to take that roll. Pat made a motion to move that the Town of Rochester accept its allocation of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding from the U.S. Treasury, along with the Award Terms & Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements that are requirement of accepting these funds. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Pat moved that we appoint Pat Harvey to serve as the Town of Rochester “Authorized Representative as required by the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding from the U.S. Treasury, to sign the Award of Terms & Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights requirements by June 28, 2021. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Pat moved to name Larry Straus to be the contact person for the Town of Rochester’s CLRFR Award from the U.S Treasury. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Pat announced she will meet with Larry to sign up for the funds. Larry said as the contact person he wanted to reiterate how important it is to not rush into anything. He stated these monies can be put in conjunction with other monies and that will leverage them in the best possible way. He felt when the state allocates their ARPA funds, these monies could probably boost the value of the town’s funds. He said the money didn’t have to be allocated until December of 2024 and doesn’t have to be spent until December of 2026. He felt there was no reason to rush to spend them.

Frank announced we did receive the emergency generator grant for the Town Office. Joan stated it was a conditional approval. She said as a federal agency they would still need to do an environmental review and an archeological review. She said the award would come through in July. Joan said we would have to go back out to re-bid. She said they would ask the same bidders and invite others.

Doon noted there was a Park Use application submitted just after the agenda was posted for the fourth of July for a voter registration drive. He felt that was patriotic so moved to approve that application. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon asked Harland if he received his answer about the missing book. He concurred. He suggested a 65” TV screen for Zoom viewers. Discussion ensued.

Doon moved to adjourn the meeting and move into executive session to discuss employee issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith