

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Bruce Flewelling, Kristen LaPell, Harland Mckirryher

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca Media, Martha Slater, Vic Ribauda, Jeff Gephart, Joan Allen, Robert Franks

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the Agenda: Vic Ribauda-discuss impact of WRVA on Bethel Mountain Road closure. Robert Franks-questions about the closure of Bethel Mountain Road

Doon moved to approve the July 12 selectboard minutes with one clerical error. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Updates for the office hours- Julie announced the office will be closing early at 12:30 pm on Thursday, August 5th.

Vic gave the board an update to WRVA services during the Bethel Mountain Road Closure beginning on August 2nd. Vic announced that WRVA serves 10 towns-Randolph, Braintree, Bethel, Brookfield, Barnard, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Rochester, Hancock, and Granville. Vic said the ambulance will travel Route 107 for any calls during the road closure. He said the route will add 15 minutes to the travel time. He shared the call data in terms of how many calls come to the three towns on this side of the mountain versus the other side. He said in the prior month there were 38 calls to this side of the mountain, whereas 326 calls were made on the other side of the mountain. He shared on this side of the mountain we have service with Granville First Response, a town paid service made up of volunteers. Vic said they would typically arrive on scene about 10-15 minutes earlier than the ambulance. They will be utilized during the closure to respond and stay on scene until the ambulance arrives. If ambulances are tied up on the other side of the mountain, then Mad River Ambulance would get a call out.

Robert had questions about the road closure and would like the contractors phone contact information and a copy of the contract between the contractor and town. Doon noted that Julie would provide the number and a copy of the contract tomorrow. Robert asked what the total number of the contract. Doon noted the cost of the total job is \$ 211,530.00.

Joan Updates: Joan spoke about the Bethel Mountain Road and the project is on track for Monday, August 2nd. She said the notice will be in the Herald in the next two weeks backing up the message boards that were put up last week. She said the signs were causing a bit of confusion. She spoke with G&N, who are responsible for the message boards to fix the confusion. She said they are a two-part message with delay in between. The information was misunderstood if they only saw the one part and not the second screen. The contractor told Joan they were set up to change based on the speed limit. There are additional signs going up to indicate road closed. The paper will indicate the road is closed to all through traffic.

Joan had a phone call with FEMA and there has been a hand-off for the project to the state. She said all the funding for the road work completed by December 2019, which are known as completed road projects has been obligated by FEMA to the state. She said that indicated the money is available at the state level to reimburse the town for the work that has been done. The amount of that reimbursement is \$ 242,553.94. Pat asked where that leaves the Retaining Wall Project. Joan explained that the project is still in the mix. She has asked for an extension for the end of 2022 to do the retaining wall hoping to find the additional funding for the Town portion. She said she is looking through USDA for that funding to help provide 35% and leave us about \$15,000.00 to find this additional funding source.

Joan said she submitted a historical and environmental review package also for the public service department for the back-up generator project at the town office. She said we are waiting till some time in October for final approval and once we receive then will need to put back out to bid again. Frank asked how much the grant was for and Joan stated it was for \$ 10,775.00.

She said she has been helping Julie and Kristen with information to help in the final audit for the end of year.

Frank asked about the West Hill Bridge Grant. Joan said in terms of funding she said no. She said there is a small gap in the difference between the grant and the end costs on the design work. She said there was an amount of \$3,000.00. She asked Brian Austin if there were any money to cover the additional costs for the contract and he thought there might be.

Doon noted the highway department had been busy putting in culverts and doing some ditching.

Jeff spoke about the supposed to meeting with Energy efficiency incorporated last week but with Suzuki kids occupying the school the meeting had to be rescheduled to the following week to look at the high school. Jeff said the CV oil bills were sorted out thanks to Kristen's help but there seemed to be something more missing. Kristen said she would help to do some research on the accounts to investigate a bit farther.

New Business: Park Use application for memorial poetry reading in remembrance of Phyllis Sawyer. Doon said it is dated on Thursday, August 19th from 4 to 6:30pm. He said the organization sponsoring it is the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Old Business: Bee the Change Update- Doon noted we are waiting to hear back from possibly having support from Hawk. He said there's something potentially happening. Bruce said it was interesting that today on Facebook he belongs to a page that stated there is an abundance of birds like hummingbirds and they contribute that to more and more people having pollinator gardens of their own to benefit not only bees but the birds too.

Doon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith