

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Orca Media, Terry Severy, Tony Goupee. **Guests Present on Zoom:** Orca Media, Joan Allen, Nancy Woolley, Troy LaPell, Jeff Gephart, Rob Gardner, Vic Ribaldo

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the agenda: Doon limited the comments to five minutes for each comment. Terry-Skate Space

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the September 13, 2021 SB Meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Murray Farm Sola Project: The guests who planned to attend to speak are not coming so the discussion will be tabled to a later date in October.

Office closure during first week of October to attend Town Fair Trainings: Julie announced the first week of October the office may be closed most days as the Rochester Officials are invited to attend the virtual meetings throughout the week. Doon asked if there is a schedule of what topics will be discussed and Julie provided Doon with the Schedule from VLCT.

Joan Updates: Joan announced the generator grant has just been fully approved. Joan said that the information has been received from the Department of Public Service. It would require Doon to sign a Docusign document online. She said it is a subrecipient grant. She was unable to open this document and asked Doon if he received a copy of it. Doon said he had not. Joan said there is a copy for him to sign in the office and it may have information for grant terms and to save a copy for her digital file. She said it will need to go out to bid and thought it would be enough time before winter arrived.

Joan updated the construction grant from the Federal Highway for the construction of the West Hill Bridge replacement. She said they approved the original amount we submitted two years ago in the amount of \$600,000.00. She noted right now the cost estimate that the designers, VHB are using is the actual construction costs of \$663,414.00 and that is before the 10% contingency. Joan and Brian Austin were exchanging emails about how to cover the additional costs. They thought they would wait till the project went out to bid sometime in early next year. Brian felt it may be high but will know better once the bids have been received. Given the uncertainty, they felt they would look for additional funding. The primary responsibility it on the Forest Service. Brian assured Joan that they would find the funding. She did reach out to Chris Bump with VTrans, and he came back with a suggestion that VTrans could make use of the defunded funds for the Mount Cushman Culvert replacement which was \$175,000.00 with some review of approvals and internal documents. He said they maybe able to make up the difference of the

\$63,414.00. They started the process last week and will get back in touch to let us know if that money is available.

Joan is compiling cost and comparing with Julie and Kristen's numbers for the total cost of Nason Brook Culvert project. She said the cost of the contract was 213,605.00 plus a small amount of \$1,200.00 for Cricket's engineering cost for oversight and then the costs of the permanent and temporary easements purchased from 3 landowners which was about \$1,400.00. She said the total costs of the project was 217,000.00. She said the total amount given by the VTrans structures grant was \$187,614.00.

She said there was a State Grant in aid completed by the Town crew. The grant was in the amount of \$17,240.00. She said the final costs are coming in between \$20-\$22,000.00. She said the State grant will pay up to 80% of our total costs or \$17,240.00. She said they will come in close to covering that cost.

Vic asked what the final amount was for the generator grant. Joan said she was unsure. Pat found in her notes it was \$10,775.00.

Library Updates: Tony announced the library did sell out of the first printing of the cookbook and they are working on another printing.

Highway Updates: Cooter was not present, but they did receive the mowers and they have started the roadside mowing.

Utilities Updates: Terry said he had ordered the two pumps. He said they did cost less than expected and will be here in 8-10 weeks. Terry said they were less than he thought they would cost. Terry said they were about \$7,500 apiece. He said they would plan to install in early spring. He said they were available so that was why he ordered them so early.

Energy Updates: Jeff said that GMP has put out an RFP for the resiliency zone. It went out a week ago today and it is on their website. Jeff said they put out a timeline for the project. They referenced both a 4-mega-watt generation field and a 150-kw generation field. He said they are asking their bidders to be creative about it. Jeff was able to confirm with GMP that the only way to get 4-mega-watts of generation was with the removal of the entire school and they can get the 150-kw of generation from the ball field and soccer field adjacent to the school. He announced they reserve the right to not accept any bid.

He also followed up with Energy Efficiency Investments Incorporated to find out what they have identified in terms of opportunities of savings and scope a project necessary to achieve those savings. He had not heard back from them yet.

He announced there will be a Rochester area Climate Initiative Community forum coming up on October 7th. He said hopefully folks have seen the flyers around town and direct mailings with information on that. He said it is Oct. 7 from 6:00-8:30 pm via zoom and there will be an outdoor in-person meeting at the elementary school on Oct 12th that will go from 5:00-6:15pm.

Jeff said the Valley Energy Climate Action Committee as well as the Rochester area Climate Initiative were represented at the Harvest Fair with Vic Ribaldo, Maureen Gannon, Frank

Russell, Chis Williams and himself throughout the day and spoke with lots of people who attended.

Doon asked about the RFP for the resiliency for the solar array what kind of time frame did they put on that because there are a lot of things at play. Doon thought it was a little bit of a fishing expedition. Doon thought it was a good idea to gather information, but he anticipated they would be gathering information not expecting to give out contracts right away as decisions would need to be made around the school. He said the construction looks like its years down the road. Doon was concerned about the time needed in the decision process around the school. Jeff said it looked like July of 2023 and a onetime 6-month extension.

Old Business:

Tabled 2nd item to vote on for Rochester High School repurposing project discussion: Pat announced after speaking with Vermont League of Cities and Towns, we are not the owner of the property so PACIF, our insurance carrier was not interested in coverage for permission to access the building. She said they did suggest a consultant and the engineering firm working with the consultant, their insurance would be sufficient to cover this insurance. Pat said since they are a subcontractor working on the job it should fall on their insurance. They did provide us with liability and workers comp coverage binders, and we submitted them to the supervisory union. Frank asked if we needed to vote, and Pat clarified that we voted to approve it pending the results of the insurance.

Follow up with Frank and Joan for long term implication on West Hill Bridge project:

Frank said it was answered in Joan's updates. Frank said if they back out of it there's pretty much nothing, we can do about it. There are some rights of way already in place, so we would have to investigate whatever we can do financially to put a bridge in there.

Public Comment:

Terry spoke about Skate Space and the concern the fire department had to make 6-7 trips down there to flood the rink, even with the new liner. Terry said it was a lot of work and the Rec committee received a sizable donation, and they were going to give it to the fire department, but the fire department would rather see the fund be used to make improvements to the rink so the fire department wouldn't have to make as many trips. Terry said it was not a problem to flood it, just not so many times. He said there are precautions that could be made to prevent the issue. He said they need to keep chains off the ice from plowing, and someone needs to fix the one corner where there is only 1 "of water. He suggested to drill some 2x4's on the top so they could get 3 or 4 "of water in that corner so it doesn't break. He is concerned that it is getting late in the year and the work to make improvements have not been done and soon it will be time to flood the ice. The board said they would have to speak to the Rec Committee members and the person plowing to act on these concerns.

Doon moved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith

