

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 11, 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, Rob Gardner, Vic Ribaldo

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Public Comment: Doon limited the comments to five minutes for each comment.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the September 27, 2021 SB Meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Radar Trailers: Doon noted they are signs the town received from a grant through the highway safety program. He said they were not very functional from the start. Frank said he checked with the Sheriff's office to see if they could be repaired, and they had nothing to share. Doon shared when Tom Schnabel was on the board, he worked at a lighting company and thought they were not repairable. Doon suggested taking them down. Nancy made a comment that we were still paying insurance on some of the highway stuff. Doon said we have since stopped paying for the coverage on them. Doon moved to remove them from the road and inventory. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Appointment for open position on the Planning Board: Doon said Louis Cocci is interested in filling that position. He is the Assistant Town Clerk in Pittsfield and had some schooling in planning. He has met with Sandy and Dan and with their recommendation to appoint him to that position. He would fill Rebecca Klein's position until the Town Meeting in 2022. Doon moved to appoint Louis Cocci. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

National Opioid Settlement Agreement: Doon announced that many of the officials in town received letters to support the State of Vermont. The more municipalities that support the cause gives more weight to the State to be awarded in the settlement. He said the town may not see the funds directly, but the town would help support the State in receiving a larger share. Doon moved to sign on the agreement on behalf of the Town of Rochester. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Approve updated town employee Vacation policy in the Employee Policy Handbook: Frank explained the change in the handbook to go from date of hire to calendar year. He said it will make it easier in the office and easier to follow. He would like to follow up in Executive session after the meeting. He said the time taken is in hours instead of weeks. Nancy explained that it also applies to all employees and not just the road crew. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Joan announced the generator grant with Dept. of Public Service has been finalized. She noted we have until August 31, 2022, to complete the project. She asked if the board wanted to proceed or hold off until next spring to start the process. The board is ready to go out to bid immediately with the price of things going up. She said she would get the process started.

Joan said there is a grant agreement with West Hill Bridge that will need to be signed by Doon. Joan said that Chris Bump from VTrans has been great about finding some funds for us. She shared with us at the last meeting that he was looking into finding out if the funds approved for the Mount Cushman project can be used toward the West Hill Bridge since the Mount Cushman project will not be happening. She said it looks good and he will have to take it through the internal process through the state. She should have an answer at the next meeting.

Library: Tony shared there will be a trustee meeting tomorrow evening at 6 pm. Tony announced that Jeannette from the Library has been chosen and appointed as only one of three public librarians in the state to serve on the working group on the status of Libraries in Vermont. He said this committee was formed by the legislature and she will be working in this group for a year. They will be working on a report to present to the legislature. Tony shared she is working on some programs for adults and children coming up soon.

Highway: Doon shared they are just about done with the mowing, and they are down to just one tractor. Tony complemented the job the crew were doing and was happy with the job this year.

Utilities: Terry receive a price from Champlin on upgrading the mission controls that give him the status of the sewer systems. He shared the ones we have are outdated and the cost to upgrade the system controls would be \$2,500.00. He said the upgrades will include information also going to the office. He said he will include Cody too. Terry is making up a list of items the water and sewer will need and prioritize it so the town can apply for grants to cover some of the costs. He said that he will investigate an engineer since most of the grants require the town to be shovel ready. He explained you may have to put money up front. Pat said Larry is also available to aid with help with the ARPA funding. She shared about the sessions last week they attended specific to ARPA and sewer and water. The board talked about the funds for the fire department coming from ARPA.

Energy Coordinator: Jeff was not present, but the board shared the results of the town building energy audit by EEI was available. Frank shared that there are copies available in the town office. The results are eye opening and kind of scary. Frank felt a group including the board and someone with a construction background should be assembled to go through the details from the report. Frank shared that Julie could also email a pdf of the report to anyone who inquires. Pat shared the meeting with EEI took place on June 28th and the site visit to the buildings was on July 13th, EEI stands for Energy Efficient Investment Incorporated.

Old Business: Doon shared his thoughts about Barry Chadwick's request for Eric Wells plaque to be placed next to Damion Sleaths on the stone next to the tennis courts. Doon felt that was not a good place because of the placement and how currently Damion's is placed symmetrically and really would not look good just adding another plaque beside it. He felt it was appropriate to do a

plaque but that was not the right location. Pat suggested to wait to see what Barry has for a proposal.

Public Comment: Doon wished everyone a Happy Indigenous Peoples Day.

Doon moved to enter into executive session at 6:50 pm.

Board made decision to use ARPA funds to cover wages while employees were forced to stay home due to COVID-19.

Exited Executive session at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith