

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy (ZOOM), Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Terry Severy, Ray Harvey, Kevin Dougherty, Orca Media

Guests Present on Zoom: Martha Slater, Kristen & Troy LaPell, Orca, Jeff Gephart, Nancy Woolley, Joan Allen, Robert Franks

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

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 October 25, 2021, selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Discuss new increased Dog License Rates: Julie asked if the dog license fees could be raised \$2 on both the neutered and non-altered dogs. The rates would increase due to mailing out licenses to all dog owners in December for the April 30th deadline. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Approve Preventative Maintenance Agreement for Town Office Elevator: Doon said this is with Access Mobility. The maintenance agreement is for \$375 with 5% discount on all parts. This is required by the state. Doon moved to approve the contract with Access Mobility. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Approve Employee Insurance Carrier: Doon spoke about the current carrier, MVP and if we are going to move forward with them. Julie shared the two carriers are MVP and Blue Cross Blue Shield. The benefits for both are identical. MVP's premium is \$80 less than BCBS and the yearly premium only increased by \$12. Doon asked if the employees were happy with MVP and Julie shared, they were and there was no problem. Doon moved to approve MVP as the Employee Insurance carrier. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Approve Class 4 Highway Maintenance Permit Application for Kenneth Beattie: Ken Beattie dba Beattie Earthworks for a class 4 highway maintenance for Oak Lodge Road for downed trees and winter plowing, and seasonal filling of potholes and stone raking. Pat asked how many years he has had this approved application. Doon said it was his third year. Pat noted we have not had any complaints with his work. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Discussion to purchase secondhand compressor for Fire Dept.: Terry Severy spoke to the board about purchasing a secondhand compressor for the Fire Dept. He explained the difficulties the Fire Dept. had over the past two years with fundraising due to COVID. He noted due to availability the fire dept. budget took a hit when they couldn't get their hoses, they ordered for six months. He shared to the board with the totals from all the fundraising losses came to \$14,700.00. They were asking for a commitment from the town to use ARPA funds to help with

these losses. Doon asked who they were purchasing the compressor from. Terry said it was coming from MES. Terry noted the generator is essential. Doon felt the ARPA funds would be a reasonable use of the stimulus money because they are COVID related. Terry said the Compressor would be available in about 4-6 weeks. Pat said she would discuss with Larry Straus and felt it does fit in with the criteria of spending the ARPA funds. Doon said after verifying with Larry as the advisor for the ARPA funds and gave the Fire Dept the blessing to go ahead and order the compressor. Frank noted in the future there will need to be a process to how the town will spend the ARPA funds. Doon suggested putting it on the Town Meeting agenda and invite the public for their ideas.

Discussion about the Emergency Generator Grant: Joan checked in with the 3 contractors who provided quotes for the emergency generator to see if the price and/or availability for the generators. She thought there would be an increase but would seem to still fit into the Federal grant amount. The board decided to go ahead and order the generator before we go out to bid for the installation. Discussion ensued with the difference between battery bank and fossil fuel to provide energy for the generator. The consensus felt it would be advisable to use the fossil fuel instead of battery backup because of the nature of the generator and its use. Doon suggest going ahead and ordering the generator incase supply chains are low currently.

Discussion about ideas moving forward addressing the EEI findings and how to move forward as a board: Frank felt there was a necessity to put forth a separate task force to take this input and involve people more versed in the construction trades to help guide moving forward with the findings. Frank felt the board was too much for them to put some perspective on this and include people who have some expertise in buildings and construction to where we go from here. He felt if we had a separate selectboard meeting to form a citizen group that can provide a path forward. Pat stated if anyone is serving on a committee regarding the condition of the Town Buildings and improvements needed in the town should contact the board or Town Office.

Joan's Updates: She is drafting a letter for Doon's signature for declining the funds to the State for the grant received for the retaining wall. The amount returned will be \$15,799.60 which is 75% of what FEMA estimate the retaining wall would cost. Joan summarized that originally, we thought at the time it was a simple repair, with a quick design of the project through an engineer and a cost estimate at the end of 2019. The town at that time was repairing roads from the April 15th storm of 2019. The town agreed to have FEMA do a preliminary design a cost estimate for us. Unfortunately, when the town was able to hire an engineer into 2020 to take a closer look at the sink hole and what would be a better fix for rather sensitive area with the sewer line and the outfall. The sewer line parallel the brook as well as the outfall which is what was causing the sink hole. We realized it was a more extensive job then what FEMA estimated for and as a result the money they estimate was much lower. After discussion at a previous selectboard meeting it was decided not to pursue the project right now. We also thought there was going to be a lot of Federal money flowing through the state for projects of this sort for infrastructure it made sense to return the funds from FEMA. The engineer felt the area was stable for the time being giving us time to find the funding for the project. Frank felt an engineered plan was much better to go with then just fix with the FEMA funds and later have a flood that would compromise the sewer in that area and come back to the town to repair at our own costs. The estimates that were

received for the repair were much higher from the funding that FEMA provided. Doon felt we should approach this as a sewer project rather than a retaining wall project with the new stimulus money available.

Highway Updates: They are prepping for winter. Changing tires and mounting snowplow frames and doing some grading.

Utilities Updates: Terry will provide a list of projects using the grant money.

Energy Coordinator: Jeff shared he is awaiting confirmation with an appointment with Jeannette and Vermont Preservation Trust to look at the library building exterior and what can be done and who is able to work with that material. The Rochester Area Climate Initiative meeting was held last week in person and on zoom that went through the collection of ideas for Rochester, ranked them and selected some priorities. He shared the next step is a virtual meeting on December 6th to review how to structure task forces and tackle some of these items.

Public Comments: Robert Franks asked about the Board of Civil Authority meeting being held on Wednesday at 8:30am what it was about. Doon shared the meeting is to discuss the proposed house district map by Legislative Apportionment Board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith