

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Terry Severy, Tony Goupee, David Harvey

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca, Martha Slater, Nancy Vadnais, Joan Allen, Troy LaPell, Jeff Gephart, Nancy Woolley, Kinley Tener

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

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the November 22, 2021, Selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Doon moved to approve the November 24, 2021, Emergency Selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Able Waste will provide their services on Sunday, December 26 instead of Saturday: They wanted to share they will still be here on the weekend, just a different day. They will be here on Saturday, January 1, 2022.

Driveway Permit approval: Doon noted this is a permit for 1274 Town Line Road. There were specifications of using a 24" 40' culvert but Cooter has concerns that it may need to go down to an 18" culvert with ledge there. David said the ditch where the driveway will go is 4' deep. He believes Cooter is thinking the driveway will go where the old driveway was and that is not the case. David said it was down about 100 yards from there. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Grant Diane Teetsel representation for research of EV level 3 charger for town: Doon approved Diane working to represent Rochester with Green Mountain power in sponsoring a level 3 EV charger. Doon thought a great location would be in the town office parking lot. Frank's concern is where they may need to run 3-phase power. He said there are a couple of locations in town. Pat discussed how the parking rules would need to change for the parking lot at the town office. Jeff Gephart shared he had spoke with Diane and she was not aware that GMP would be willing to come down to Rochester on Wednesday for site location. He shared that Maureen Gannon was also interested in working towards getting charging improvements in town. Jeff will let us know a time and place for that meeting.

End of Year/Holiday closing dates for Town Office: Julie noted the 24th and 31st is a holiday and the following week the office will be closed to public but will answer phones and email. She noted they would like to close the year and prepare for the upcoming new year.

Joan Updates: Doon read Joan's notes as she was unable to attend. He noted last Friday Joan had filed the reimbursement request with the state for the road repair covering all work done in 2020 and 2021 through FEMA. She explained the total cost of this work is \$157,466.51. She said it was ready for FEMA to approve and reimbursement would follow along soon. Doon shared that Joan explained there would be one more final submission for this project under Category Z

which would cover the administrative costs with a maximum amount of \$25,000.00. She shared she will be moving on to easements for the West Hill bridge project and the back-up generator bid.

Library: Tony shared the library is still doing the Porch Pick-up service and that there will be a trustees' meeting on zoom or in the library tomorrow evening. Doon expressed their concern about the repairs for town buildings include the library. Doon asked what the outcome is from the grant from Vermont Historical Preservation. Tony said it was too soon to know at this time. Frank said the meeting went very well. Frank expressed his concerns about going through with the grant. He said with the way the building was constructed, there may be a better way to fix the challenges and keep the integrity of the building. Jeff will be forthcoming with the information once he has all the research in hand. Jeff noted Jeannette will be asking the trustees at their meeting who has the authority to approve the disassembly of the wall to do the work to diagnose the problem on the library building's exterior. Doon stated it is the trustees', but Frank wanted to do the research to find out back in the day the town had an agreement with the outside of the building. He said he would like to research the minutes going back to when that decision was made. Nancy noted the trustees' hold the deed to the building. She explained it was deeded to them and they are the owners. She said the town agreed to take care of the maintenance on the exterior and the town has taken care of maintenance on the interior. She said there is a file in the office explaining that. Pat asked if the major renovation we did about 10 years ago with the library, was through the town budgets. Nancy said it was a bond that the town pays for. Frank asked if Nancy and Tony would help look through the information at the town office. Both agreed. Jeff shared that Jeannette would share with him the information on the weatherization that was done. He will look at that and see what is going on with the cladding and windows and where the upstairs and first floor join and why there is leakage happening.

Highway Updates: Doon thanked Terry for picking up the slack while Cooter is out. Doon shared the town is trucking in the sand which is saving the town money.

Terry spoke on behalf of the Fire Department about the purchase of a new truck. Frank said we are waiting to see what the decision will be with the upcoming budget work. The board asked for Terry to wait until the first of the year for their decision.

Energy Coordinator Update: Jeff noted there was a meeting on the sixth for the Rochester Area Climate Initiative and over 40 people in the tri-town area participated. He shared they broke into 3 groups looking at the prioritization of programs that is done in developing ideas and prioritizing the ideas and what is the next step. He shared that 10 resource people were brought in by Vermont Council of Rural Development. The areas on the energy side that were of most interest to people were electric vehicle charging and weatherization of existing homes. Doon shared that GMP's outcome for the fast charger was a result of that meeting.

Old Business:

Public Comment: Vic commented as the COVID task force chair to share his thoughts in 2 points. First, he shared the health department data for Rochester is now showing we had 12 new COVID cases between November 17th and December 8th, which is 1 every 2 days. He shared there is a chart on the health departments website, and we are at the top of the charts. He shared

with the upcoming holidays we could expect increased to the infection rates. He said we should be doing more to help each other. Vic shared the Omicron variant is spreading exponentially across Europe. He said it is in 30 states and may be in every state by now. Protection against Covid is a layered process there is not a single bullet to protect. He has asked the selectboard to consider adopting a motion to recommend local businesses to mask up. He is not asking for a mask mandate but a strong statement from the selectboard to help protect each other. Questions were asked about the amount of vaccinated, which can be found on the state health department website. Kinley asked if there were statistics supporting how many vaccinated vs not vaccinated. Vic referred the website. The board agreed with Vic's statement to present to the town business' and if he could send along a draft.

Kinley shared with the board a new release of funds announced on the WCAX article by Housing Commissioner, Josh Hannaford with 5 million dollars coming down the line for mostly Vermont homeless initiative specifically for renovating existing structures and homes. He shared the town doesn't have the homeless issues that other communities have but perhaps the funds for residences around the area.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Smith