

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2022

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Terry Severy, Nancy Woolley, Midge Scanlan, John Champion, Tony Goupee, Ben Faulk, Susie Smolen

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca, Martha Slater, Joan Allen, Vic Ribaldo, Troy LaPell

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

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve with some clerical errors corrected. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Ben Faulk spoke to the board about donating a couple of oak trees. He said they are 2" trees. He thought they would be nice on the park. Frank suggested they would be perfect for Lion's Club Park down at Bean's Bridge along the river to stabilize that bank. Ben said he would plan them in the coming week while he had his apprentices still available to help plant. Doon thought while talking about trees, asking Ben if he would be interested in the Tree Warden position. Doon stated the position has a large responsibility to the town. Frank said it involves training and there is a lot involved. The information is available online.

Midge Scanlan spoke to the board about an issue the folks on Kennedy Drive had a concern about. She said she had spoke with Ray Harvey, Terry Severy and Gordon Merrill. The folks on Kennedy Drive wanted to bring attention to a new development at the end of Kennedy Drive on the 300 plus acres. She stated the owner has coupled with a company known as Tentrrs. They work in conjunction with landowner and set up a tent site on a plat form. She described the set up for each of the two units. There are outside firepits and one unit has a woodstove for heat. She explained their main concern is the fire hazard. She indicated that Ray and Terry had investigated the situation and found the sites follow the state and seem fine. They felt there was a non-issue because they comply within the parameters of the state guidelines. Midge stated she had heard from Julie it was a planning and zoning issue. Doon and Pat asked if they should have filled out a building permit. Doon said he would bring it up at the next Planning and Zoning meeting. He said they should approach the zoning board because of the commercial use of the property.

Approving liquor license for Café Rochester LLC: Doon moved to approve a liquor license for the Café. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Updating Capital Plan: Nancy Woolley would like to suggest because this is new to many people, to invite Kevin Geiger to help develop a new capital plan. She thought if he could come and make suggestions to developing the plan. Frank said there was a list of people to appoint on the committee. Nancy thought it would be important to get this going before the next budget and finance meeting begins in the fall

Adopt a motion to designate the entire Rochester ARPA award to cover Government Services under the standard deduction for lost revenue: Pat explained this is just a formality to show all the funds we receive come out of that responsibility category. The town's losses will come out of that category as it is the broader category. Doon made a motion to designate the entire Rochester ARPA award to cover governmental services under the standard deduction for lost revenue. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Joan Updates: Joan didn't have any new information to report.

Highway Updates: John shared the new truck is in with the body shop to have all add on parts installed. He said the truck is getting closer to completion. Doon thanked John for having a very tolerable mud season. Many towns had shared horror stories and our town was very fortunate. Doon questioned several years back, Robert Meagher asked that we increase the gravel budget significantly. His perception was we were really lacking material on our roads. Doon asked what Cooter's thoughts were now after being a road foreman for the past few years. Cooter said he did cut back on the gravel and felt there are still roads that need gravel. He said you loose from plowing, erosion and dust, and wash outs. He feels comfortable with the gravel budget where it is currently but as inflation is happening its going to decrease the amount of gravel in the budget.

Library Updates: Tony said they are still researching on the things needed to be done with the building. He asked if there was a walk around on Wednesday. Frank said they met but there was not a walk around. Frank said there was discussion, but everything hinged on sale of the high school building. Frank suggested about the deed for the library getting straightened out with the ARPA funds. Tony said to check the paper for articles on the library and upcoming events. He said the library of things has many items available.

Utility Updates: The dosing counters are not working and quit over the weekend. He has someone coming to work on them. He said he had not received the contract for the spring walk around and is concerned since he has called several times. The spring walk a round is usually in April. Terry said they will need to meet with the company replacing culverts when they get to the village to do a walk through. Terry said the pancake breakfast went very well. They did 18 take out breakfasts. It was great to see everyone. Terry thanked the firefighters for volunteering their time on Easter. Pat thanked Kristen for her extremely nice message she wrote.

Dog bag stations: The board had concerns about the maintenance of removing the bags and who would be responsible. The board thought having signs with the bag dispenser installed and not the receptacle available. The board is asking every dog owner to be responsible and pick up after their own dog. Doon thought the receptacle would smell and not a good solution to have waiting for someone to remove frequently and also, they would invariably fill up with household garbage. The board felt it was really a responsibility of the dog owner's responsibility.

Appointment of Mickaela Richardson as Rochester's Emergency Management Director: Doon moved to approve Mickaela Richardson to fill the position for the town's emergency management director. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Approval of the updated Local Emergency Management Plan for 2022: Doon moved to approve the updated local emergency management plan. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved. The plan will need to be approved and sent to Kevin Geiger.

Approval of the Local Emergency Management Plan Municipal Adoption form for 2022: Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Review of the Master Financial Policies: Frank noted some clerical errors in the Section 3 Cash Receipts and Return Check Policy with the authorized personal didn't include the Fire Department. He said the payee section should also include the fire departments as well. The policies are still under review and will stay on as old business.

Vacant Appointments: Doon said the 2nd Constable is still vacant as well as the Tree Warden. Frank felt the Tree warden would be better served by the selectboard. Doon said we are adding a Capital Planning Committee to the appointments. The members who wish to serve on that committee are Greg White, Barb DeHart, Nancy Woolley, Lois Bond, Julie Smith, Kristen LaPell and the selectboard members. Doon moved to make that appointment. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon said the board has some bills to approve and they will go into brief executive session to discuss employee issue. The board approved a wage increase for an employee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Board entered executive session and exited at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith