

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 08, 2022

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Terry Severy, Nancy Woolley, Kristen LaPell, Larry and Lynda Creech, Tony Goupee, Sue Moulton, Steve Haskins, Bruce and Doreen Jones, Norm Christiansen,

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca, Martha Slater, Joan Allen, Barb Shenton, 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 July 13, 2022 Special Selectboard minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved. Doon moved to approve the July 25, 2022 Selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Skatespace Fundraising: Norm announced they are sending out a flyer to all residents to ask for funds towards Skatespace. He asked the board if a GoFundMe could be set up to raise additional funds. The office would like to find out if municipalities can participate in GoFundMe.

Norm also would like to apply for funding through the State Recreational Facilities Grant which is due on September 10th. He is working with Dean Mendell, and they are asking to meet with Joan to look over and make suggestions in completing this grant application.

Speed on back roads: Sue Moulton spoke with board about the speeding on back roads. She asked the board if the speed limits could be reduced. She requests the limit to be reduced to 25.mph. The board said there would have to be a traffic study done. Frank said they are currently working with Rita at Two Rivers on reducing the speed limit on Bethel Mountain down to 40mph to match the Bethel side. Sue spoke to the board about the ATV activity on the roads. ATVs are illegal to drive on back roads or main roads.

Larry would like to propose to the selectboard that we have a front yard standard ordinance for homes with broken windows to be boarded up and salvage yard looking yards to be cleaned up. He asked if a letter could be mailed out to these homeowners. The Selectboard will reach out to John White, health officer to speak with the landowner with all the junk leaking into the stream.

Speed on Bethel Mountain Rd: A letter was sent to the selectboard asking for reduced speed and signs posted for no passing zones. She said it had been many close calls for anyone turning left.

School Street traffic and parking issues: Susie was concerned about the speeding into the corner and someone getting hit. She was also asking about signs or ordinance for parking on School St. She indicated a large vehicle with a trailer stopped in front to her tenants parking so they couldn't get in or out.

Library invoice reimbursement: This was for Cody Downs work on the library installing flashing. The library paid his invoice asking the town to pay the \$428.90 to finish the balance of

\$1097.00 invoice. The board thought it was reasonable to pay the balance out of the Building Fund. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

PACIF Grant -Fire Department: A grant application was submitted and approved for the Fire Department. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Service Agreement between Two Rivers-Ottaquechee Regional Commission and Town of Rochester on zoning regulations: Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Stray Animal Holding contract: Kristen explained how Jeff, our animal control officer had recently been over to Homeward Bound, and they mentioned to him we hadn't had a contract with them in several years. He brought it to the office for discussion and we haven't signed on with them since 2018. Nancy noted there was a lot of discussion in the past with the need and found out the contract is \$400 and for each dog they receive from us there would be a \$75 charge. The contract was not necessary, and the town chose to do the \$75 fee instead. We have recently had stray dogs that we hold in the basement, until we could find their owner and it worked out great. The board has decided to just use the \$75 as needed.

Joan Updates: She is finishing up odds and ends and checking on FEMA that will still be open once she leaves. Doon thanked Joan for all the years of her help and navigating through all the red tape.

Library: He noted there are many library programs going on and posted for viewers. He said that Jeannette spoke with a contractor, Paul Rosenfeld who could do some painting and they gave a quick estimate for \$9900 to paint 3 sides of the building. Frank recently spoke with someone who paints roofs. Doon asked if this contractor could break it up and do a side a year. They will take it under advisement.

Old Business:

Master Financial Policies: Julie asked that the board review sections 1,3 & 4. She noted in pencil her edits and would like to have a few others and the auditor to review before the board would approve. She noted section 2 is being written currently. Doon also thought a meeting with the budget for review. She stated how imperative it was to get these policies reviewed and approved for future awards of grants. Julie will scan over the copies to the selectboard and some members of the budget committee.

Removing the Tank Bids: Pat recused herself. There were three bids submitted. Precision Welding (Mac McGuffin) \$1525.00. Xcav8, LLC \$1315 and Harvey's Plumbing and Excavating, LLC submitted their bid of \$1501. Doon moved to award the bid to Dave Harvey with Xcav8, LLC as the lowest bidder.

The board drafted a letter to send along to the park resident. Doon moved to execute the letter and send it out in accordance with the ordinances. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Pat announced an update for the feasibility study aftermath. It was suggested in the feasibility study meeting to hire a project manager to be hired to seek and write grants, moving forward with the school. Vic is stepping down as the head of the committee. They are starting a conversation with how to hire a project manager. This person would be paid out of grant funds and not town payroll. They would be treated as a subcontractor, like Peter Fairweather. She said there will be additional accounting in the town office. She said it's ready for discussion. Terry Severy asked if the town will get a chance to vote on all of this. Nancy asked where the school is involved in all of this. Its all been put on the town. She asked if Stockbridge involved in this. Frank said it would be the committee's best interest to form a non-profit and negotiate with the school board and purchase the building and go from there rather than the town being held hostage for all this. The girls in the office don't need all the extra to do with their current workload. It would be impossible to administer all of that. He feels if this group feels this is a viable solution, they should form a non-profit and buy the building. They should take the town out of it. Doon said when it comes down to gathering the information to have the town then vote on it and have an educated vote on it. He said having to hire a project manager is now a step beyond that vote. Pat said where they stand right now is working on the flood plain line and possibility of further subdividing the flood plain/way property away from the high school building so that the high school would be out of the flood plain. Doon said between the Brownfield aspect and the Flood plain aspect, its turning into a lot more complicated thing than the school board saying lets just sell this property. Pat noted we could as a town decide we have heard enough, and we are ready to go to vote as our next step. The committee would like to ride out the possibility of the federal grant that is a substantial amount of money. They would like to go to the town with the vote saying we have millions of dollars. Doon noted this subdivision to get rid of the flood way property is a requirement before they can even apply for the funding. Pat stated they put the brakes on because federal funding can't happen in a flood plain. Terry said the sad part is the town can't take care of the buildings it already owns. They all look terrible. Doon noted we have gained a lot of information in the past year. Frank stands with the fact that it shouldn't be on the taxpayers and should be set up as its own non-profit and take control of the building that way. Pat felt this is a good opportunity to go to vote in November, either during Election or Town Meeting. Nancy felt if we go to vote we can see where everyone stands. Doon agreed to get this to vote at Elections. This would give everyone informed information. Pat noted she would take all this information back to the committee and all agreed that they put a lot of work into this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith