

## Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December 26, 2022

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

**Guests Present:** Orca Media, Nancy Woolley, Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Deb Matthews

**Guests Present on Zoom:** Orca Media, Troy LaPell, Kevin & Paula Dougherty

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

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** Doon moved to approve with a few corrections- South Hollow not South Hill and in the past the selectboard did not approve the gate on Jones Mountain. The gate was established without permission from the previous landowner. Doon moved to approve the minutes with the corrections. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

**Granville First Response:** Daniel spoke to the board addressing the call sheet the board received from WRVA pertaining to the amount of calls they did or did not respond to. Daniel stated the information shared was incorrect. He stated the calls highlighted, according to WRVA reports did not indicate if they were on scene or not. He indicated one reason could have been, there is a box the WRVA crew would check off to show if they were on scene. Pat asked if he had a list of the responses, they did attend that could correct the list given by WRVA. He said looking through the call list, about 40% of the time the information would correlate with the information he obtained. He said he found 20% of the 107 calls to Rochester this calendar year, Granville was not even called to. He said it goes back to a dispatching issue they have been working on for the past year and half or more. He indicated the 911 call center is not dispatching First Response at the same time as the ambulance service or fire department. He shared it was a topic he discussed at the recent officers meeting. He said this brought them to the decision to switching dispatch centers, which they are actively seeking right now. Daniel indicated of the 87 EMS calls they were called to in Rochester, he can confirm they were on scene for 93%. He said there are some reports he does not have but can confirm one call he did not attend. He said the toughest time to find staffing is during the working hours of 5am-5pm, Monday through Friday, such as is any volunteer organization. He said the answer is recruiting. He said now that we are out of COVID, he can recruit and get people certified. He also indicated his staff will call into barracks with their cell phones to say they are responding to a call. Doon asked how many people are on the crew. Daniel said there are 18 active members. Kristen asked if you are a firefighter are you both fire and EMS? Daniel stated that is correct. Doon asked what he hoped to have with recruiting. Daniel shared he would like to see a roster of 30 active people. Discussion ensued. Daniel asked about other services they could assist such as back country rescue. Doon thanked Daniel for attending.

‘Hey Neighbor’ discussion: Deb Matthews shared with the board; she is part of one of the 4 groups Jon Copans set up in town. She and Beth Kennett are co-chairs of the Housing committee. They have met several times with Jon’s housing committee members as well as meeting several times on their own. The one clear message they had from these meetings was

what ever you do, you need to find out if the community is supportive of housing. Such as do you see any problems, do you see any needs. After having meetings one of the issues that has come up is the amount of new people in town. Carolyn Cruikshank shared in the group meeting how years ago the town had a welcome wagon and reached out to people, but with COVID how do you do that. After brainstorming, the committee realized they could not get a clear picture of what the issues were without knowing who the community is. Deb is asking the board on behalf of the committee to host an event at Pierce Hall where they invite community businesses and member who have been here. She said they would like to get bags donated from Cabot cheese and new folks who have just moved here in the past three years could go around and meet plumbers, electricians, snowplow people, restaurants, services such as message. She said this could be an open house event. She said the farmers market there were 450 people who attended. She said this could be set up and people could walk through and meet people. She said the issue at hand is they do not have any funds to support this and the rental at Pierce Hall is \$200 and \$200 for the cleaning fee. The committee was looking for volunteers from the Town committees could volunteer that day. She said they are setting up January 29 from 11am-3pm. She said they are looking for food and drink donations. Doon shared this would be a reasonable ask from the Rebuild Rochester organization. He said this is in support of the community. She shared the other thing the committee would like to request is an informational booth. She said it could be down at the park by the firehouse. Doon said the other side of the River Brook Park sign has been waiting for something to populate it. He said this is that park down by the fire station. Doon said it's not in the center of town. Deb said this would be good because the parking is across the street. Pat said with the EV charging stations going in, it would be a good location for people to walk over and read. She said the phone book was a great resource for new people. She said the yellow pages were great for advertising. Deb shared Bethel put out an owner's manual for all the new people. Deb shared they wanted to put out a post card but with the limited budget, the office girls were happy to put out a notice. She said they will make up a poster. Nancy said to share on Front Porch Forum. Doon said to put a page in the Town Report also. Volunteers are needed. Frank shared all the businesses could put out a blurb about their business and drop off at the town office.

**Letter of Support for Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant for the Huntington House:** Doon said he really needs more information. He said their letter, they share solar and reworking the parking lot and housing changes and condominiums. He feels this should be brought to the Planning board. He said it's not real clear what they are signing for. Doon shared to invite them to the Planning meeting on January 2. The board will table until further discussion.

**Approve Winter Maintenance Permit Application for Oak Lodge Road:** Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

**Plowing snow across town roads and highway discussion:** John would like to address this so its on record. He said this was a hard couple storms and would like to make people aware of the fact that people should NOT plow across the road or highway. This is unsafe and there are Vermont statutes that can result in further violations or carry a civil action can be brought forth.

**Review and Approval of West Hill Bridge Replacement bid packet:** Pat and Frank both reviewed the bid packet. Frank called Brian and discussed the contractor and who would choose

the selected contractor. It will be the towns decision and Brian would be happy to help as well as Jason. Doon moved to approve the bid packet. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

**Highway Updates:** Frank and John both attended a class on alcohol/drug through the state. They also met with Greg Russ and Cricket for the River Brook Drive culvert replacement. White River Partnership will cover the costs at 100%. Frank said the town crew have put in a lot of overtime with the storms which is expected. They have had to piece things together as needed. He said he hopes they can get some down time to catch up and rest. He said they did a great job.

**Grant Update:** Kristen shared on the 13<sup>th</sup> the Rogers Brook application was submitted and we should hear back in a month or so if we were accepted. She said we have received additional ARPA funds. She shared two Vermont towns that returned their ARPA funds, and the state reallocated the funds between the other Vermont towns. She said our town received an additional \$76.68.

**Public Comments:** Franks said that VTrans asked if we have a parking ordinance for the cars parked along Route 100 during storms. He would like to have people move their vehicles off the state highway at night and during storms to allow for highway crew to clean up during storms.

Doon moved to adjourn at 7:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith