

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Orca Media, Nancy Woolley, Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Tony Goupee, Kelly Kelly, Doreen Jones

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca Media, Troy LaPell, Rob Gardner, Martha Slater, Jeannette Bair, Kathryn Schenkman,

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. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Review December Treasurers Report: Board reviewed report. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Library Trustees-discussion about VDOL Federal Funding Grant: Kelly Kelly, chair of the trustees of the Library announced to the board in December a Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grant was signed into law providing a large federal grant in the amount of 10 million to the Vermont Department of Libraries to be used for rural library building maintenance issues. She asked guidance from the board on how they would need to solicit estimates in preparation for the opening of the application. She indicated that Jeff Gephart is putting together a bid packet for the project draft advertisement for estimates.

Highway Milage Certificate: Doon said there were no changes. He moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Discussion upon School Vote: Doon shared the board tentatively talked about the vote on whether the town would acquire the high school meeting some months ago to happen this spring. He shared considering the status of the BRELLEA, awaiting the assessment they have decided this vote will be postponed. Pat read minutes from the Highschool Repurposing Committee meeting from December 21, 2022. She shared committee chair; Vic Ribauda has retained the services of Liz Curry to assist the high school committee for a period of time to create a road map in continuing the project. Her experience shared with the group this type of project has many facets to it and can take much longer to complete. Dick Robson provided the issues around the flood way and flood plain. They have decided further subdividing to remove the flood way and have only the flood plain as a hazard. This subdivision would allow a small parcel that lies in the flood way and giving it back to the school. They are not sure if the agency will allow and when. Liz suggested to not wait and to pursuit this subdivision. The site will need to be surveyed. They will have to go through the process and legal will have to take over. Liz shared a screen of the working draft of the project including the BRELLEA. There are points that will go beyond the Town Meeting Day and this information is important for the voters to be fully informed. Hazmat

testing will start in February and will conclude until May and the BRELLA will not be finished until April. The Hazmat mediation plan will take a better part of this year.

Kathryn shared the flood way determined through the zoning commission that we only have to do a property boundary adjustment, which was approved by the school. DuBois and King are doing that survey boundary adjustment. She shared the flood way remediation is just sealing off that door, where the water came in during Irene on the lower left side of the auditorium. She updates the board on the environmental assessments based on meeting this past week. She indicated Two Rivers has used up their grant funds. They are expecting reports by the end of the month. This will be the Phase 1 report. It is to the towns best interest to be fully enrolled in the BRELLA program. They put in the application and the next step is for the board to speak with Sara Bartlett from Environmental Conservation and do a pre-application interview. Kathryn and Vic are more than happy to attend that interview and support the board in that call. She shared the hazmat assessment will determine the PCB's, lead and mold and any asbestos. This assessment will be released mid-March. Upon completion of Phase 1 and the hazmat assessment, Phase 2 can begin. Phase 2 involves the physical examination of the property and testing to determine if the hazmat's are bellow the established threshold levels or not. If they are bellow, there are no more work to be done. If above, move testing may be required and possible remediation options identified. So, in order to be eligible for states funding and clean up, the town must be enrolled in BRELLA before Phase 2 begins. The Phase 2 sampling works should take about three months if there is no snow cover on the property. So, if Phase 2 starts in March the completion will be expected around August. She stated it would be in the best interest of the town to vote after August. She spoke about the 10,000-gallon underground fuel tank. It would be important to have this removed during the Phase 2 process so soil bellow the tank can be assessed for the presence of oil. An above ground replacement oil tank could be temporarily installed to make sure the building maintains a level of heat. She announced to the board that RSUD reversed itself about heating the school for next winter. They are putting it into the budget.

Announcement- “Hey Neighbor” event postponed: This event announced at the last meeting has been changed to Sunday, March 12. Location will be determined from 11-3. This event is to Welcome new people to town and share businesses and services provided locally.

Pat announced legislation will be deciding a temporary Act 78, allowing towns to have meetings by zoom or hybrid meetings, which may will end. They believe these Acts will be extended.

Pat announced she received an email from Deborah Pierce from the State of Vermont, announcing the town received the 2022 Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program. The town's project was approved to improve the sidewalk extension and pedestrian crossing at Brook Street and VT Route 100 in Rochester. It was selected among 7 applications statewide. These improvements will be put out to bid and overseen by VTrans. The town will be required to sign a grant agreement that will allow the state to preform work within the town highway right of way and committing to maintaining the improvements once constructed. They anticipate the engineer to work on the plans no later than March of 2023. This is 100% funded.

Library Updates: There will be a trustee meeting tomorrow at 5:30 at the library. Masks are required. Zoom is also available.

Highway Updates: Frank asked John to see what a sweeper attachment to the bucket would cost to do spring cleanup around the village, park cleanup and the new stormwater disposal project installed to keep all the silt from filling it up. One quote of \$15,000 came in.

Grant Updates: Nancy Submitted a Tree grant at the end of December. This is for new trees, planting, and mulching. The trees at the on the east side of the park and the south side of the park are green ash trees. She indicated the Urban Tree group felt they will be susceptible to the Emerald Green Ash Borer. They suggest underplanting since 11 trees will be devastated. There will be some maple trees and with advice from an arborist a variety will be determined.

Kristen updated the board; on December 30th the town received their second and final reimbursement for Fiske Road in the amount of \$12,244.42.

She shared the town received the final contract for West Hill Bridge Replacement today. She said there was a typo on the final sealed bid due date. She asked VHB if the date could be changed to Monday, February 13 to coincide with the Selectboard meeting that evening. Once we have the information and approval from the board, it can go out to bid on Friday

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith