

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2023

Present: Doon Hinderyckx (absent), Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Orca Media, Nancy Woolley, Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Rob Gardner, Kevin & Paula Dougherty, Jan McCann, Dave Harvey, Kerin Vadnais, Jessica, Lesley Straus, Brian Sargeant, Daniel Sargeant,

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca Media, Troy LaPell, Rob Gardner, Martha Slater, Mary McGrath, Lindy Stetson, Mary Frattini, Midge Scanlan, Matthew Parrish, Patricia Rydle, Vic Ribaud, Nancy, Connie Mendell, Linda Schneider, Jeff Gephart

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

Pat confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the agenda: Rob Gardner-handout for new costs on Rochester High School

Prior Meeting Minutes: Pat moved to approve with a few corrections. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Correction to Article 4 on the Town Warning: Pat noted a correction was made to Article 4 figures. New figures are \$1,313,277 to replace \$1,314,749 and amount to be raised by taxes was corrected to \$923,439. Pat moved to approve the corrected figures. Frank seconded the motion. Both were in favor. So, voted.

Shelter Team Discussion: Jan spoke to the board asking when and how to open the shelter and treat as a warming shelter when temperatures are down, and power is out in Rochester for more than 24 hours. She asked if the Emergency generator had been serviced recently and if the fuel tank was filled. Pat assured her both were done in the past month. Shelter team and board agreed to have a warming shelter opened with approval from Lindy with prior notice at the school. Jan noted the MOU is currently being updated.

Review January Treasurer's Report: Board reviewed report. Pat moved to approve. Frank seconded. Both were in favor. So, approved.

Farmer's Market Park Use Application: Pat moved to approve with conditions that Asia come in to sign. Frank seconded. Both were in favor. So, voted Frank noted they were in the process of re-writing the Park Use Application and updating the Park Policy. More information to come.

CAI Technology Tax Map Contract: Pat explained this is an annual contract and moved to approve. Frank seconded. Both were in favor. So, approved.

Approve Tobacco and 2nd Class Liquor License for Khalsa Market (Skip Mart): Pat moved to approve. Frank seconded. Both were in favor. So, approved.

Sign Certification of Compliance for VTrans FY24 Town/Highway Grant: Pat moved to approve and sign. Frank seconded. Both were in favor. So, approved.

Preliminary discussion of districting First Responder Services: Pat read a timeline starting in 2019 of the issues found for services provided in the valley for emergency services from Granville First Response. This can be seen on orca media. She explained how Two Rivers Ottawaquechee is currently looking into something called Shared Services. They are looking to join resources for surrounding towns. Currently they are looking at Stockbridge, Pittsfield and Rochester as forming districts instead of individual towns. She noted this is something we can look forward to and is encouraged by the state. Those discussions will be taking place in early March. She said she is meeting with WRVA this week about the services and anything they can lend to improve the service. Leslie Straus asked a district of what. She commented with a question about penalize them financially as the first step. Frank spoke to say a couple things need to be understood. Frank explained the budget process of departments bringing in their budgets in the early fall, the budgets are then processed through the budget and finance group and selectboard. In these discussions with department heads their budgets and needs are. He said with Granville not responding to a lot of calls, we do not have a way of fixing that. It's up to Granville to address that issue. He shared by addressing it the way they did it will create conversation and be addressed publicly. If it was just funded straight up, then the discussion would not come up and the service might continue or not. One of the questions that came up during B&F was if we are paying for emergency services and they don't show up, is it still an emergency service? Frank said it had to be addressed. The town budget can be amended at Town Meeting. This brings it to the public, in front that there is an issue here. If Granville can't respond to an emergency and we are paying for an emergency service and it can't be addressed, then what are we paying for? Frank continued, we don't have a way to fix what the issues are, its Granville's responsibility to do that. He said as a selectboard we wouldn't be doing justice if we didn't bring it to the attention of the voters. Jan asked if the issue was brought up in B&F, there is no input from the town and that can be determined then. Pat explained the budget is approved by the selectboard and presented to the town at town meeting for their decision. Jan asked Dan, how much does it cost and the hours of training it takes to become an EMT. Dan responded it takes 200 hours of training and that can take well over a year to take. He explained the courses cost \$1200 to get enrolled. He explained the money cut was critical for their training. Dan spoke to the board stating the first step to addressing this issue was to reach out to him directly and the second step was the MOU stating there is a board position for Rochester and Hancock, a voting board position. He explained there has never been anyone appointed to that position. Pat told Daniel that B&F asked for him to come and speak to the board as they do all departments every year. Discussion ensued. The board explained they addressed the issues due to the complaints they were receiving from GFR. Mary McGrath asked if the Granville Fire Department was changing their dispatch and using Middlebury dispatch. Dan stated they are staying with Rockingham dispatch because they have made changes in their procedure and updated their software. He said the past two months have been better. Kevin asked if the budget is amended from the floor, the selectboard is not required to put that money toward rescue. He asked the board what their feeling was and would that money be put towards rescue. Pat explained if that was the desire of the vote they would. Kevin continued with information they have now and the open dialog this could happen. Daniel stated currently they have not missed a call. Board will add the representative for GFR on the appointment list.

Rob Gardner spoke to the board about the lack of financial detail clarifying the real costs and risks of the high school project. He said there is a lot about vision but not the costs. He shared the costs are available in the engineer's report, but it all mixed in with all three buildings. He provided the board with the costs all pulled out in a document he put together pulling out the high school costs from the engineer report. He feels this should be publicly available. He hopes - there will be a future discussion with the board on this. Nancy noted the costs are detailed from 2018-2019. She said the costs today would be significantly higher. Frank figured the costs would increase by 35%. Rob shared the feasibility study shows the total costs from two million to three million. Rob said he would be happy to come back and talk.

Pat announced a Small Grants for Smart Growth program. The Housing Committee is hosting a Hey Neighbor event, to which they applied for a small grant to cover some costs in the amount of \$1,500. They would need to ask the town to be their fiscal agent to proceed with the grant. Pat moved to approve the town to be the fiscal agent for the grant. Frank seconded. Both were in agreement. So, approved.

Highway Updates: Frank shared that John will be posting the road in the next week or so and has informed the loggers. He said there is a meeting set up with John and Cricket over at River Brook Drive on Wednesday. He said he has been in touch with Cricket about the wall at the Town Office and get that out to bid as well.

Utilities Updates: no new updates.

Energy Coordinator Updates: Jeff is working on the library and the costs of the water intrusion on the East, West and Southern sides of the building. He said the building has a lot of lead paint and will need lead remediation to remove the clapboard. There will be repair to the frame of the building. He is pricing materials and fix and put back in condition to hold up for long term. He said reviewing the energy audits done on that building in the past to see what has been done and what has not been done. He said there are roof leaks. He explained how he is working with Two Rivers to get scope of work, pricing and analyze and work with the grants. He said the largest one is \$500,000. He shared there will be a need for a couple different grants. He said there is a need for architectural review to make sure the scope of work fits in with a normal bid process. He ended saying he will provide the scope of work to the board in a week or two.

Grant Updates: Kristen shared the Trees grant is good to go. She said on January 30th the security cameras for the fire department were installed, so she submitted that grant for reimbursement. She said the grant is in the amount of \$3,100.00.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith

