

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2024

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests: Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Terry Severy, Nancy Woolley, Larry Plesent, Larry Straus, Lois Bond, John Lampert, Orca Media

Zoom Guests: Martha Slater, Troy LaPell, Jan McCann, Laura Sokoloski, Hannah Rice, Burma Cassidy, Drew Hudson, Caroline & Robert Meagher, Nancy Vadnais, Henry Garzia

Doon called the meeting at 6:37 pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the February 12, 2024, selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor, so approved.

Doon asked if anyone wanted to speak about something from zoom or in the room. John Lampert asked to speak about a dog leash issue on Quarry Hill. He said a neighbor has a dog that is not on a leash and nipping at his children. The board listened as John described his issues with the dog and its owner. The town office mailed the dog owner a regular and certified letter including the dog leash law ordinance and the cost of fines for noncompliance. After realizing the severity of the situation, the town asked the Town Animal Control Officer step down from this situation. The town shared with John to reach out to the State Police with any further issues. John asked that the town keep him in the loop with any added information or developments.

Approve the January Treasurer's Report: Doon moved to approve the January Treasurer's Report. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, Approved.

Sign Pierce Hall Rental Contract for Town of Rochester: Doon shared the board has received a rental contract from Pierce Hall offering the town free use of Pierce Hall for town sponsored authorized events. The board will need to sign the contract and include the towns insurance listing Pierce Hall as the additionally insured. Doon moved to sign this contract. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Highway Update: Frank said all the trucks are back together. He said they will be posting the road shortly. He shared that Terese in Bethel called and they are looking at another road project for their side of Bethel Mountain Road and would like to do this coming summer. It would be a suitable time to do the projects on the Rochester side as well. Frank said we could share in the signage costs.

Utility Updates: Terry would like to meet with the board to discuss increasing the utility fees. The fees may be holding their own but its not fixing the system. The repairs need to start now. The selectboard increased the rates 3 years ago. The class Terry took said the rates should be review yearly for increases. Larry asked about a capital project plan. Frank said that we spoke about a Capital Plan with Two Rivers through the MTAP program. The grants will require a Capital Plan be in place to apply for Grants.

Energy Coordinator Update: Frank spoke with Jeff about checking the lights at the town office and replacing them with LED lights.

Grant Updates: Pat shared with the board the two properties she submitted for the USDA NRCS grant officially granted one of the properties. The chosen property would need to restore a sandbank from eroding down into the stream and the landowner at the time of submission would need to pay 25% of the total project as their share of the funds. Due to all the flooding in Vermont, Pat found out USDA granted the landowner 100% of the funding. The project is out for engineering and will go out to bid hopefully in the next 12 months. This program will run through the town grants program.

Doon moved to adjourn meeting. Pat seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith