

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2024

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Nancy Woolley, Orca Media, Mason Wade,

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca, Martha Slater,

Doon called the meeting at 6:16p.m.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Doon moved to approve the meeting minutes from the Selectboard Meeting held on June 10, 2024. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved. Doon moved to approve the Special Selectboard CDBG Informational Hearing Meeting on the High School building. Pat made a correction on page 2. Doon moved to approve with the correction. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

May Treasurer's Report: Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Change of Road name discussion: A request was made to change the road name of TH4. Angus McCusker, town E911 coordinator suggest changing the name to Buttles Road. After brief discussion, Doon moved to change the name to Buttles Road. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Approve/Sign FY25 Pay Rate Increase for Town Employees: Doon moved to approve the new pay rates for the new FY. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Utility rate increase discussion: Terry presented the board with a slight increase to the utilities. He proposed to increase the water base rate from \$55/quarter to \$60/quarter and the usage from .004/per gallon to .005/per gallon. He also proposed a sewer base rate increase from \$75/quarter to \$80/quarter and the usage from .008/per gallon to .009/per gallon. Terry noted we should review commercial rates for apartment building and businesses in town. He also suggested to look closely every three years for changes to the rates. This would help to bring the utilities out of the red and allow for upgrades and maintenance. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Review/Approve Mowing Contract to put out to bid: Doon said this would be a three-year contract. Mason asked that the Climate Emergency Declaration Initiative be kept in mind when making the decision. Doon said we can express our preference to encourage electric mowers in the bid proposal. Terry said the contractors are doing a good job this year.

Review/Approve Sidewalk Plowing Contract to put out for bid: Town will also be seeking a three-year proposal for the snow removal for sidewalks. Bids will be advertised soon.

Sign Certificate for completion for upcoming FEMA work: This is for the mitigation work up by Mike Bowen's. Doon moved to sign the certificate of compliance for town road and bridge standards. Pat seconded. All in favor, so approved.

Sign Agreement with Town Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission for LHMP: Doon moved to sign the contract with Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Continued discussion with Mason about Initiatives: Mason continued the discussion and had two different things to discuss. He spoke about the town report and what it would look like. He said after re-reading the initiative and past discussion with the delinquent tax issue and how they relate. He mentioned that something that was related to him about how it's a good process to deal with people who were delinquent in the town and how it doesn't hurt anyone. He brought up the point that an individual around the time of Irene or before was turned down a job at the library for being on the delinquent tax rolls. He asked if this shouldn't be the criteria for a job. Frank said if he wanted to address this it should be taken up with the library trustees. His other topic of discussion is for town revenue to ticket folks for idling their cars. He said it relates to the Climate Emergency Declaration. He provided the board with a photo of a no-idling sign. He wanted to know what the town has for a policy on no idling. He asked does the state provide these signs. He also asked if the constable could provide a warning as an educational flyer. Mason asked if the November 5th date be the appropriate time for the school acquisition vote. He said the larger turnout was the best time to put the question out to vote. Board took it under advisement. He also asked if future informational meetings could be held at Pierce Hall.

Sign letter from VT Dept. Taxes for notifying town to reappraise Education Grand List Properties: Doon moved to acknowledge the letter received from the state about the notification to reappraise by signing the letter. The town has already contracted with NEMRC for reappraisal to begin in June of 2025. Pat seconded. All in favor. All gave their signature.

Review/Approve all new updated Town applications for permits: The permit applications have all been updated and revised with the new rates. Julie suggested the Planning and Zoning review for language updates if needed. Doon moved to approve the permit updates with any fine tuning from Planning and Zoning. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Grant Update: Kristen submitted the Rogers Brook reimbursement on Friday. The total cost of the project was \$33,233. The town's portion is \$6,647.00. We should see a reimbursement of \$26,586 in the net couple weeks.

Public Comment: John Lambert had two things to discuss. He asked how the updated animal ordinances were going. Nancy indicated VLCT had sent in new information to help with updating. He presented the fire chief with a coin for the Rochester Fire Department. He said they did an excellent job over the weekend. The fire chief thanked John for his kind gesture and token of appreciation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm. Board went into executive session. They exited executive session at 8:07 pm and the decision to have the school vote on November 5 was decided by all board members. They also discussed how the nonprofit will work on the agreement between The Hub Inc. and the Town of Rochester on how to manage over the project.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Smith

