

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 12, 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, Troy LaPell, Jeff Gephart

Doon called the meeting at 6:17p.m.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Doon moved to approve the meeting **minutes from the Selectboard Meeting** held on July 22, 2024. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Doon moved to approve the **Emergency Selectboard minutes** approving the tax rate for FY 25 on August 7, 2024. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Continued discussion about the 2025 Town Report cover: Mason asked the board if the next cover, instead of having wildlife photographs to include a voter manual guide. Doon shared a request was sent out for what the costs are to add pages. He said that if the report had any more additional pages, it would require a different binding which would increase the costs to production. Mason is suggesting using the cover for this manual guide. Frank said the town report is just to share the towns financial status and the reports of appropriated funds. He said what Mason is asking is not what the town report is based on. Pat said this could be something as a link on the Town's website. Doon encouraged Mason to write up a draft of what he envisions to include in a handbook of living in Rochester that could be included as a page on the website.

Approve June Treasurer's Report: Doon moved to approve the June Treasurer's report. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Adopt VT-Alert as a public safety notification system: This is for a municipally based system. There is a local implementation plan. Doon moved to adopt the VT-Alert as the public safety notification system. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

To approve to include the high school acquisition vote on the General Election ballot or separate ballot: Doon said we have the opportunity to have the question for the vote to be included on the back of the General Election ballot. The state will be mailing out all the ballots for the General Election which will save the town from mailing them. This also serves the purpose of elevating it to the attention and importance this vote deserves. Doon moved to include the high school vote on the General Election Ballot. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

To remove pent designation on Jones Mountain Road: Frank has been involved with complaints about the locked gate on the pent road on Jones Mountain Road. Frank has not been

able to find out when in the past the gate was officially installed. He said he found where it was designated to be a pent designation after researching the history in the vault. He said he spoke with the town attorney about the locked gate, which impedes on the other landowner. He said the lawyer shared he can remove the pent status of the road which will put it back to a class 4 and the landowner will need to remove the gate within the 10 days or the town can officially go up and remove it. Doon said the pent roads were originally created to control livestock. Frank recommended to drop the pent designation of that road. Doon seconded. All in favor. So, approved. Frank will send a letter to the landowner.

Request for Hazardous Waste Date Sept 7 at the Town Office 8am-12pm: Doon noted there will need to be a constable on site during this event. They will reimburse the town for his services. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Approval for Catering liquor license for Huntington House even on Aug. 24 8am-4pm: The Board will need to clarify the information further before approval. Doon tabled for now.

Approve 2 driveway permits-Thein & Griffin: The first driveway permit is from Justin Griffin up on Middle Hollow. Cooter looked at it and made comments and approved. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved. The second driveway permit is from Nick Thein on Town Line Road. Cooter approved with the adjustment of upgrading to an 18" culvert from a 15". Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Approval to purchase A/C unit for the office using building reserve fund: Jeff Gephart was looking into an energy efficient unit. Jeff measured the space and vault with a capacity load of 18,600. He said he visited the Efficiency Vermont website who has the best energy star for rebating things. He can't find anything that goes beyond 10,000 BTU per hour. He said that when he looks at slightly less efficient AC units the next size up is 22,000 which is more than we would want. He said they would also require 230 volts, which is not available. He was told the building is not set up and would require a lot for the building to be brought up to 230 volt.. He was suggested by Efficiency VT to put in two units, a 10,000 and an 8,000 BTU. He said these are set up for double hung window and not the awning windows the town office has. Frank asked about the wattage for both units. Frank was concerned about the power consumption plugged into the same circuit and if it would overload with both running at the same time. Pat asked about removing the vault square footage to see if that helped. The decision was to wait, and the season was nearly over. Doon suggest a heat pump. They will do some research to find something for next season.

Approve Pre-buy contract from CV Oil for heating fuel for Town Office: CV Oil provided a pre-pay contract. Doon moved to approve the pre-buy for heating fuel for the town office. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Approve possible Purchase & Sales Agreement with contingencies for High School Building: Doon said the purchase and sales agreement was drawn up and passed along to the town attorney for review. This is for the possible purchase to have ready. Doon moved to approve the agreement. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Office closed on Friday, August 16th, Independent JP petitions will need to be filed before then: This is an announcement for those who may be running as an Independent JP.

Energy Coordinator Update: Jeff sent an email to the board to explain the Window Dresser storm window inserts had an increase of cost. The quote we were given was around \$900. He said he also wanted to include in the submission of the windows treated, there were 4 windows in the entryway. He said the final walk around for the estimate would be for 20 windows and not 22 as stated in the original quote. He said the new total was \$ 1,312.88. Doon made a motion to approve the new quote. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Public Comment: Mason asked about the “no-idling” signs for each end of town. Board would like to have it as an educational piece. Frank said the signs would need to go through the state not the town. Doon said perhaps put-up signs on the bulletin board at the store. He suggested Mason approach the store.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16

Board entered executive session to discuss the wording for the vote question pertaining to purchasing the high school building to put on the General Election ballot.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Smith