

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2024

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

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

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca, Martha Slater, Troy LaPell,

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

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Doon moved to approve the August 26 meeting minutes. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Doon moved to approve the September 4, Informational meeting minutes with a correction made about the supervisory owning the school. Should be the RSUD-Rochester Stockbridge Unified District.

Award bid for mowing contract: Conversations about looking into robotic mowers and the use of electric mowers was discussed. Doon moved to accept the bid from 4 Seasons Property Management & Excavation in the amount of \$ 18,000/year to be paid \$3,000/month for summer month. Spring clean-up and additional work will be billed out hourly if needed. Board will speak to John about electric mowers and robotic mowers. Frank seconded the motion. All in favor. So, approved.

Award bid for Snow Removal on sidewalks bid: Doon moved to accept the bid from 4 Seasons Property Management and Excavation in the amount of \$ 19,500/year to be paid \$3,250/month for the winter contract. Town will provide salt/sand for use on sidewalks and the use of the old fire house to keep equipment as needed. Frank seconded the motion. All in favor. So, approved.

Request for “no overnight parking” sign for down by the tennis courts: tabled. No discussion.

Highway Updates: Road crew is back on the five-day work week. Roadside mowing has been completed.

Energy Coordinator Updates: Jeff shared the town has received from the state some time ago, a grant for level 2 energy audits for the town office and town garage. Jeff said he reached out to TRORC for an update on that grant and where are the auditors since the beginning of July and also aware that the implementation grants are open. Harry from TRORC responded with bad news. He said the commissioner of Buildings, Grounds and Services sent out a statement explaining only towns that have been designated high energy burden by 2019 Efficiency Vermont report will be eligible to apply for the implementation funds. Rochester was not included on that list. They said the funds would need to be obligated by the end of the year and they decided that they needed to narrow the eligibility criteria in order to achieve that. He said

they will still honor the audits that we have been awarded. Harry said he is getting word they are getting schedules together for the audits that are lined up. Jeff said we will have the ability to find out what we need to do but will not have a shot at the money to do it. Doon said the audits at least will be good so we will know where we want to go next.

Public Comment: Sue Smolen approached the board about how dangerous School Street has become with traffic, speeding and parking on the side of the street. She is concerned with the sharp corner and exiting School Street by the Hardware onto Route 100 being a blind spot. She is concerned for the children that are more present on School Street. The board listened. Frank will reach out to Rita at TRORC to see if there is a study that can be done. Doon suggested speed bumps.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Smith

The board did not go into executive session. That has been tabled for another meeting.