

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, June 11th, 2019, 6:00pm**

Meeting called to order 6:02pm.

**Present:** Gary Mullen, Mike McPhetres, John O'Brien, Jillian Conner, Rudi Ruddell, Betsy Sponable, Betsy Race, Dave Race, Brenda Field, Janet Chambers, Penny Russell, Rodney Hoyt

**Road Foreman Report**

- Hoyt, Road Foreman, was informally told by our region's VTrans representative that Tunbridge won a Structures Grant from the state to replace the small bridge on Belknap Hill Rd.
- Hoyt showed the Board two different estimates for pavement crack seal from Freshcoat and Nicom.

McPhetres made a motion to approve two days of crack sealing by Freshcoat. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

- J.L. Smith Excavation is currently working on Hanson Rd. as part of a Better Back Roads grant awarded last year.
- The tractor is having a solenoid problem, but should be fixed by next week.
- Rudi Ruddell asked Hoyt about helping out with determining GPS coordinates of damaged areas from the 4/15 flooding event. Hoyt asked if Ruddell could drive around with him one day to get the accurate coordinates. Ruddell agreed.
- Ruddell also informed Hoyt that the town of Randolph is considering declassifying a few of their Class 4 roads that share land in Tunbridge. It will not happen immediately, but it should be on Hoyt's radar.
- Trucks #6 and #1 need new license plates.

**Update on Planning Commission**

Ruddell and Brenda Field came to discuss that status of the Planning Commission with the Selectboard. They said they are struggling with membership and participation of all nine members. Ted Hoyt and Ingrid Van Steamburg both resigned recently. Field and Ruddell on behalf of the Planning Commission asked the Board to appoint Laura Ginsburg as one replacement.

McPhetres made a motion to accept Ted Hoyt's resignation from the Planning Commission with thanks for his service. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

McPhetres made a motion to accept Ingrid Van Steamburg's resignation from the Planning Commission with thanks for her service. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

McPhetres made a motion to appoint Laura Ginsburg to the Planning Commission. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

Ruddell asked the Board to sign a formal letter that should have been, but was not, submitted to Two Rivers with the updated Town Plan asking the organization to review the plan.

O'Brien made a motion to have the Chair of the Board, Mullen, sign the formal request letter to Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission to review the 2018 Tunbridge Town Plan. McPhetres seconded. So moved.

### **Burn Ordinance Discussion**

Field, Town Forest Fire Warden, came to discuss the draft burn ordinance recently reviewed by Garrett Baxter, an attorney at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Field feels that Baxter's edits were mostly good, but she would like to make some adjustments to the penalty fees. Field proposed that on someone's third offense of burning without a permit, they will be subject to an \$800.00 penalty or a \$400.00 waiver if they comply with instruction.

### **Other Business**

Betsy Race, Health Officer, discussed a health code violation issue with the Board. She explained that a property on Kelsey Mountain Rd. has household trash in the bed of a truck and completely filling a trailer. The owners of the property say they have no money to pay for the disposal fees of this trash. Race researched that it is possible for the Town to pay for the cleanup and subsequently place a lien on the property for the amount it cost. Race is interested in offering this to the owners but only with the Board's verbal approval.

O'Brien asked how long the waste has been accumulating; Race answered about two years. Mullen suggested a rented dumpster be placed on the property for the owners to fill up and have hauled when necessary. McPhetres agreed that could be a good idea. Race said she would present this option to the landowners.

Janet Chambers was present at the meeting to let the Board know that she and her neighbor have been having a lot of trouble with a dog that lives down the road. It has repeatedly run loose on Bicknell Hill and Larkin Rd., and has killed several of her chickens.

The Board asked Conner to write a letter to Jimmy Hoyt, the owner of the dog, asking him to reimburse Chambers for her chickens, re-establish control of his dog, register his dog, and be sure that it is up to date on its vaccinations.

Sponable, Town Clerk, asked that it be noted in the minutes that the Board verbally approved two liquor licenses the previous week. One was for Trail Break Tacos to sell at the Ranger bike race held on 6/9/19, and the other was for 802 Cocktails to serve at a wedding scheduled for 6/15/19.

Ruddell presented a contract from RB Technologies for services to update the technology and network systems at the Town Office.

McPhetres made a motion to have the Chair sign the contract for RB Technologies services. O'Brien seconded. So moved.

Mullen signed the contract.

### **Executive Session**

McPhetres motioned to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. O'Brien seconded. Time was 8:10pm.

McPhetres motioned to exit executive session at 8:35pm. O'Brien seconded.

McPhetres made a motion to appoint Jillian Conner to the position of Town Clerk effective July 1st, 2019, until the next town meeting. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

McPhetres motioned to pay Conner \$39,520 annually, plus health, dental and vision insurance, for the position of Town Clerk and Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

McPhetres motioned to appoint Barbara LaFrancis to serve as the Tunbridge representative to the First Branch Ambulance Service, replacing Tim Wolfe's seat. O'Brien seconded. So moved.

### **Orders and Warrants signed.**

### **Minutes signed.**

McPhetres motioned to adjourn at 9:33pm. O'Brien seconded.

STANDING SELECTBOARD/ COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULE 1st Meeting of the Month:

Cemetery Commission: April and August  
Planning Commission: April, August, and November  
Trustees of Public Funds: February and June  
Recreation Commission: January, April, July and October  
Listers: May and November  
Auditors: September and November  
Library Directors: October

  
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Gary Mullen, Chair

  
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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

  
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John O'Brien, Clerk