

## **TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 10th, 2019, 6:00pm**

Meeting called to order 6:05pm.

**Present:** Gary Mullen, Mike McPhetres, John O'Brien, Rodney Hoyt, Jillian Conner, Todd Tyson, Judy Howe, Dave Kimball – South Royalton Rescue,

### **Update from Road Foreman**

Hoyt began by saying the weather we've had recently has been tough on sand consumption. He's considering ordering more sand for the stockpile to be sure the town gets through winter. Hoyt also informed the Board that he plans to take a week long vacation beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Thomas Hoyt, of the road crew, will fill his place during his absence.

Joseph Paquin, Tunbridge resident and Collector of Delinquent Taxes has expressed interest in volunteering with the road crew to learn how to drive the large trucks, in order to work towards getting his Commercial Drivers License (CDL). In light of how difficult it is becoming to recruit people to work on the road crew, Hoyt and the Board think it would be a good idea. They will revisit the topic in spring, as Hoyt would not want to begin training Paquin until the road conditions were better.

In terms of budgeting, Hoyt asked for a raise for each member of the Road Crew, and the creation of a "emergency fund" which would help mitigate large upfront costs when large weather events or disasters strike.

### **Solar Project Update**

Todd Tyson of the Tunbridge Energy Committee came to update the Board on progress he's made pricing out and exploring options for a potential town-owned solar array that would power the town buildings. A representative from Integrity Solar visited the town buildings a few weeks ago but hasn't gotten back to Tyson with hard estimates yet. The representative did identify the garage as easiest site to install at. From his own research, Tyson very tentatively said a 25-30kW system would cost between \$75,000-\$100,000. If grant funding was secured, the total would be less. There are a number of options for funding solar projects. Loans, private investors, grants, and out of pocket. Tyson knows that the cost can seem surprising up front, but believes the long term fiscal picture is very attractive. Tyson will keep plugging along and keeping the Board updated.

### **South Royalton Rescue Contract**

Dave Kimball, of South Royalton Rescue, joined the meeting to present the contract for ambulance services from 2020-2022. The rescue services serves 535 people. Cost of contract is \$59 per capita maximum.

**Town Hall Manager, Judy Howe**

Judy Howe, caretaker and manager of the Town Hall joined the meeting to discuss some issues with the Town Hall. Firstly, Rusty Dewees, a Vermont based actor, has asked to perform at the Tunbridge Town Hall as part of his town hall tour this winter. Part of his profit will benefit the Class of 2020 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip. He asked if the rental fee could be waived. The Board agreed to let him rent it for half price: \$75.00.

There are a couple light issues on the front of the building. Mike Howe will see if he replacing the solar light outside will fix the strobing it's been making. The separate street light is also not doing its job; its supposed to light from dusk to dawn, but hasn't been functioning. The Board asked if Mike Howe could look into what it would cost to fix that situation as well.

A door outside the dining room has been getting stuck. Howe noticed that part of the door frame is rotted, so she would like to have it replaced. The Board agreed and asked her to look into the cost of a new door as well.

Lastly, there has been an uptick in unauthorized use of the Town Hall. Howe has noticed that at least once a month, there is a small group of people using the downstairs dining room and kitchen, without reserving their spot, paying, or informing Howe. She does not know who the group is or why they have access to the building. Another Town group had a recent event there that Howe was not informed of, and they began setting up for it two days in advance. Howe has also regularly noticed two individuals entering the hall during the day, but is unsure of their purpose in being there. Howe would appreciate it if folks could follow the proper channels to schedule their event, to avoid conflicts. The Town Hall is not open for public use without permission from Howe. She is also planning to change the lock box and key codes in case the current code has been spread too widely.

### **Other Business**

The Board asked Conner to calculate how much the budget would increase based on a couple suggestions of raises for the road crew.

The Board agreed to reschedule their regular meeting date from 12/24 to 12/30 at 6pm. They plan to discuss the Town Budget.

The Board approved and signed the new personnel policy including comp time drafted by Conner.

McPhetres motioned to accept the 2020-2022 First Branch Ambulance contract. O'Brien seconded.

McPhetres motioned to accept the 2020-2022 South Royalton Rescue contract. O'Brien seconded.

McPhetres motioned to distribute \$50 in staff appreciation to each member of the road crew and the transfer station attendant. O'Brien seconded and wrote the order.

Orders, warrants and minutes signed.

McPhetres motioned to adjourn at 9:03pm. O'Brien seconded. So moved.

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

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Gary Mullen, Chair

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

John O'Brien, Clerk