

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 14th, 2020, 6:00 pm

Meeting called to order 6:00pm pm.

Present: Gary Mullen, Mike McPhetres, John O'Brien, Jillian Conner, Rebecca Hoyt – Treasurer, Rodney Hoyt – Road Foreman, Janet Zug, Jim Ludwig, Brenda Field, Betsy Race, David Race

Road Foreman Report

Hoyt began by saying he thought they made it through the various “mini mud seasons” okay so far. Most of the ruts in town have been patched and equipment is running well. A couple minor repairs have had to be made to a couple trucks, but nothing major.

The budget for sand may need to be increased for next year.

The town is due for a new grader in 2021. Hoyt may look into leasing a grader instead of purchasing a new one. The Board has been budgeting for such a purchase.

Conner told everyone that the grant reimbursement for the Belknap Hill bridge project has come in.

Town Hall – Janet Zug

Zug, who plans the Shindigs at the Town Hall, would love to see some improved lighting in the basement of the Town Hall. As of now, the lights that line the ceiling are fluorescent and one switch controls them. She thinks if some sconces were installed on the wall, with dimmable bulbs, it would provide some better lighting options. Some sound proofing may help as well. The Board asked Zug to contact Mike Howe to take a look and come up with an estimate for what it might cost to alter the lighting.

Town Plowing of Driveways – Jim Ludwig

Ludwig joined the meeting to express his opinion that the plowing of some private driveways by town trucks and employees. The Board replied that they agree the plowing is not a good use of taxpayer money, but that the plowing is the result for long-ago agreements made between the town and then-landowners in exchange for pieces of property used for town roads, and other things. They asked Conner to contact VLCT for advice on how to begin a process of removing these agreements.

FY20/21 Budget

McPhetres motioned to accept the revised FY2020/2021 budgets for the Highway Department, at \$984,495 with \$849,145 to be raised from taxes, and General Fund, at \$623,653 with \$361,138 to be raised from taxes. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

Town Office Organization

Brenda Field and Betsy Race came to let the Board know of their plan to help the Town Clerk and Treasurer clear out outdated and unnecessary records being stored in the vault in the basement of the Town Office. They plan to get a group of 3-4 volunteers together once per week to sort through the storage boxes. The Clerk and Treasurer will then take what they've sorted and decided, according to the Vermont State Record Retention Policy, what can be disposed of. The Board was supportive.

Other Business

Conner presented a draft article for Town Meeting written by Todd Tyson concerning the Tunbridge Energy Committee's plan to pursue a community solar project. The Board asked Conner to ask him to reword it slightly.

Mullen signed a form authorizing the Central Vermont Solid Waste District to host a Hazardous Household Waste event at the Tunbridge Transfer Station this summer.

The Board asked Conner to write a job description for the position of Transfer Station Attendant and post the job opening publicly. Conner suggested the Board use this change in employee as an opportunity to re-think/improve the way the transfer station is being operated.

Orders, warrants and minutes signed.

McPhetres motioned to adjourn at 8:55 pm. 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