

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020, 6:00PM
via Zoom**

**Present: Gary Mullen, Mike McPhetres, John O'Brien, Jillian Conner, Emily Howe, Joe Paquin -
Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Rebecca Hoyt - Treasurer, Brenda Field, Simon Bradford**

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

Road Update

Rodney Hoyt, Foreman, updated McPhetres via phone prior to the meeting. One of the town trucks clipped the edge of a resident owned driveway culvert on Larkin Road and damaged it. The road crew will cut off the end of it instead of replacing it.

Hoyt would also like to spend less than \$1,300 to purchase a water pump to pump water from the brook for use in chloride applications to the road, rather than renting one for \$200 per week. The Board agreed it was a good idea. O'Brien moved to purchase a water pump for the road crew for not more than \$1,300. McPhetres seconded. All in favor. So moved.

J.L. Smith will be hauling sand for the stockpile this winter. McPhetres made a motion to purchase 5,000 yards of sand, at \$14/yard delivered to our yard by J.L. Smith. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

Hoyt received a complaint about loud trucks coming down Dickerman Hill too quickly. He spoke to the loggers about it. Hoyt also wants to look back into pulling granite from the quarry on Brocklebank Rd. to bring to McCullough's to be crushed and tested on the roads. Mullen volunteered to confirm who owns the property that the quarry is located on and into potentially purchasing it.

Conner received two complaints from two separate people about two separate places in town where trash is being dumped; one spot on Gage Road and one on Falls Hill Road. The Board asked Conner to ask Hoyt to order two signs, one for each location, that say "no dumping" and the fine amount that could be charged if it continues.

Lister Appointment

McPhetres motioned to appoint Jola Brock to the Board of Listers. O'Brien seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tax Discussion

Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Joe Paquin, joined the meeting to discuss how the Town should handle property taxes this year. Paquin expressed that he is more than happy to work with taxpayers to ease their burden given these difficult economic times, but also being cognizant of the Town's responsibilities and budget. The Treasurer has twenty days after the day taxes are due to pay the school the entire sum they are owed by the town. She added that with the school budget being voted down, lowering the overall school budget by 13%, perhaps taxpayers are feeling better about paying their taxes. McPhetres suggested keeping the due date and penalty schedule for now, and reevaluating to see where revenue is at after the due date. Hoyt agreed, and added that if there is a lot of outcry from taxpayers, we can revisit this discussion at any point. Board agreed, and agreed to meet with Paquin and Hoyt the first meeting after the tax due date to check in.

Update from Emergency Management Director, Brenda Field

Field came to ask for support from the Board to take advantage of a grant from the VT Dept. of Public Service to install a couple wifi boosters on town buildings to extend the wifi hotspot and make it more accessible to the public. The state asks for \$300 for a five year maintenance plan. Field will meet with the State technician and Simon Bradford, Fire Chief, tomorrow morning for more details. The Board agreed it sounded like a great opportunity and encouraged Field to continue pursuing it.

She added that she's still working with town employees to get a supply order together to prepare for the potential second wave of COVID 19.

Covered Bridge Weight Limits for Emergency Vehicles

Fire Chief, Simon Bradford, asked for clarification on weight limits for emergency vehicles on covered bridges. Conner will contact VTrans for the answer and go from there.

Other Business

Conner let the Board know that the Orange County Sheriff contract is ready to be signed for the next fiscal year. She will scan and email it to the board members for review before they come into the office to sign it.

McPhetres made a motion to approve the orders and warrants. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

McPhetres made a motion to approve the minutes, O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

McPhetres motioned to adjourn at 7:22pm. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

/s/ _____
Gary Mullen

/s/ _____
Michael McPhetres

/s/ _____
John O'Brien