

Tunbridge Selectboard meeting Nov. 10th, 2020

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Eve Ermer, Rob Howe, Wendy Palthey

6:03 pm meeting commenced via zoom. Mullen joined late, after he located AWOL Truffles the cow and her calf.

Library: Ermer, library board member, presented the proposed budget for FY 20/21. It was noted that because of COVID closure of the library the cost of labor was lower than the previous year. This savings allowed for a less than 1% increase in budget for FY 20/21. They are in the process of searching for a new librarian. O'Brien asked if there were any expected capital expenses in the next year. It was noted that there is a line item of \$1000 for library capital improvements. Ermer will get back to Selectboard if the library expects any upkeep costs will exceed this allowance in the next fiscal year.

Road report: McPhetres reported that Blaktop Inc. paved on Strafford Rd, Monday. Shoulders and approaching aprons to be put down on roadsides as weather cooperates. Jim Ware, road crew, busy blowing leaves. There has been spot grading around town. Thomas' truck is down in West Leb. with electrical issues. Rodney reported that someone very recently reported 70-80 cut off tires were thrown over the bank on Ward Hill where the "no dumping" sign is. O'Brien suggested that McPhetres should file a report with the VSP. O'Brien to talk to TSA (The Sharon Academy) to see if they could get some volunteers to help road crew haul the tires up the bank before the snow comes. Guard rail at Mill Bridge taken off by an unknown truck who also hit a home. Brenda Field, Tunbridge EMD, spoke with road crew about the importance of COVID safety since numbers in VT on the increase.

Warrants: McPhetres moved to approve all warrants O'Brien seconded.

School District Petition: Rob Howe presented the Selectboard with a petition containing 117 signatures. (This is 10% of voter check list in Tunbridge.) The petition called for town vote to withdraw from the First Branch unified school district and reestablish the Tunbridge school district. Petition will go to town clerk to verify signatures. Question about if we can do the vote after the holidays, and possibly with a drive thru vote for COVID safety.

Howe also asked about Town Meeting, if and how it would be held with COVID. Questions about if it could legally be postponed to later in the spring. Possibilities of drive in town meeting at fairgrounds with use of local radio station, WFVR, equipment that the church borrowed, so folks could tune in and listen from their cars were discussed.

Other business:

Transfer station: discussion about opening transfer station on Wednesday from 3-6pm til the end of this year to help space people out due to COVID. Mike Barnaby, transfer station worker extraordinaire, said he would be willing to work Wednesday evenings. Mullen will look into getting flood lights installed, either solar or hard wired. Brenda Field, spoke with Barnaby

about COVID safety and the town transfer station. Palthey will locate town sandwich board to post hours at transfer station in accordance with state policy. Palthey will send requested photos to state solid waste district management.

Palthey will call Irving oil in regard to oil tank state inspection.

Minutes for Oct.27th, 2020 approved McPhretes motioned, O'Brien seconded.

Minutes for Sept. 11th, 2020 approved, McPhretes motioned, O'Brien seconded.

Minutes for Sept. 8th, 2020 approved, McPhretes motioned, O'Brien seconded.

Minutes for Sept. 16th, 2020, approved, Mullen motioned, McPhetres seconded.

Minutes for Nov. 3rd,2020 approved, O'Brien motioned, McPhetres seconded.

8:05pm McPhetres motioned to adjourn, O'Brien seconded.