

## TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 24, 2020

6pm via ZOOM

Present: Gary Mullen (chair), Mike McPhetres (vice chair), John O'Brien (clerk), Wendy Palthey, Anita Abbot, Caitlyn Macglaflin, Aaron Weed, Alex Hanson, Laura Ginsburg, Brenda Field, Ben Wolfe, Meg Hopkins, Rebecca Hoyt, Mike Krauthammer, Mariah Lawrence, Kathi Terami, Michael Sacca, Marsha Higgins, Jena Trombly, Billie Smith, Todd Tyson, Laura Lee, Dan Ruddell

Road Report: Someone tore up the boards on the Mill Bridge Sunday. Rodney says they can be repaired. The road crew is getting equipment prepared for winter. They are also thinking about how to be COVID safe and do their job. Vermont Local Roads' grant will cover Dickerman Hill earth slide. They can also grant money for Hard Scrabble for ditching. Town needs to put in 10% of the grant money for Better Roads Grant. Question of if we can afford two projects in one year. Needs to be signed by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Library Report: Billie Smith (library trustee) reported on the capital improvement need of the library: leaking skylight, old water heater, leak on north side foundation of building, grading around building needed, mushrooms on the roof. There was a question as to if town was responsible for water heater. Town will attend to building maintenance. Mullen will find a roofer to examine the situation on the roof. O'Brien suggested to put building maintenance costs in the libraries budget for next year. Smith will have library price out water heater.

Mike Krauthammer questioned the library's hiring process for a new librarian. Smith noted she there was a public meeting Wednesday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> for the discussion on that subject.

Planning Commission: Laura Ginsburg (town planning commission) Hazard Mitigation Plan must be renewed every 5 years. The Planning Commission has received notice that the state, and thus FEMA, have accepted the Plan. Kevin Geiger from Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission will present it back to the Selectboard for final signature. Because we have renewed the plan according the FEMA standards and have kept up with other standards regarding hazards (roads/bridges; emergency planning), the Town of Tunbridge is eligible for 12.5% reimbursement if there is a federal disaster declaration, higher than the standard 7.5%.

The town plan voted on by town and plan TRORC had did not match up in the wording. The plan was reopened and updated. Language was corrected to ensure that directives would be followed. Public meeting on Dec. 10, 2020 6:30pm. The plan will then go back to the Selectboard in late January to approve, and final vote will be at town meeting. The final plan will be on the website for downloading. By the time the Selectboard receives it there will have to ample time for public input.

EMD COVID UPDATE: Brenda Field, (town emergency management director), reported that hand sanitizers had been placed around town property. She emphasized that the Town needed to be vigilant in the safety of its workers. COVID is in Tunbridge. Town buildings should be closed as much as possible. Employees should work from home as much as possible. A Town plan for substitutes for essential town workers should be thought through. Mullen will make sure no one uses town hall. Town offices will remain getting cleaned often especially high touch points. Mullen, Field and O'Brien will meet with Rodney (rd crew manager) about COVID safety protocol.

School District Petition: McPhetres suggested vote on petition at town meeting. Mullen mentioned issue of school budget planning timing. O'Brien mentioned possibility of Legislature closing the "divorce loophole". Terami commented that the earlier the vote the better given that there will be more steps after the vote in the process to separate.

O'Brien motioned to hold the vote on Jan.9<sup>th</sup> pending approval of town clerk, McPhetres seconded, so moved.

Hoyt mentioned if the weather is bad voters can vote absentee.

Warning to go into Dec.3<sup>rd</sup> issue of Herald of Randolph

Selectboard would like to make sure there is a public informational meeting prior to the vote. Tyson mentioned having press present to better inform public.

Other business:

Todd Tyson mentioned that his partner Betsy would be happy to loan the equipment that the radio uses to the Town for town meeting if it would be helpful in keeping people safe during COVID.

Tyson also questioned the status of the legal trails and the progress of the Town policy surrounding that. He mentioned we should check with Town of Sharon since they have dealt with this issue.

Hoyt spoke about how to set up budget in COVID times. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting will be budget setting time via ZOOM. Hoyt will send around recommendations and actuals from previous years.

Hoyt will switch over to MVP insurance to save Town money. McPhetres motioned to approve switched, O'Brien seconded, so moved.

Mullen mentioned that all Selectboard members need to sign VT Deputy Fire Warden paper to appoint John Durkee.

Mullen said Town needs to put out bid for plowing and snow shoveling at town offices and town hall.

Mullen said that Mike Howe could make access to Irving Oil of bottom of oil tank for state inspection next summer.

WARRANTS: McPhetres moved to accept warrants, O'Brien seconded, so moved.

Minutes Selectboard meeting November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 O'Brien moved to approve, McPhetres seconded, so moved.

8:18 meeting adjourned.