

## TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING

December 22, 2020

VIA ZOOM

**Present:** Gary Mullen (chair), John O'Brien (clerk), Mike McPhetres (vice Chair), Mariah Cilley, Becky Hoyt, Kathi Termi, Dan Ruddell, Caitlyn Macglaflin

6:08pm Mullen called meeting to order.

**Road Report:** Winter maintenance going smoothly. Mill Bridge repairs will be paid by driver's insurance who caused the damage. Rodney is looking into new 1-ton truck options. Need to get estimate for upgrading town garage lean-to. Larry's truck out with starter trouble. Signs coming for covered bridges about truck routes. Also signs to be posted on trash containers citing "no entry". Possible policy needed on mailbox posts that are rotten and can not withstand plowing are not responsibility of the Town.

**Town Clerk 90-day review:** Mariah Cilley said the job is going well. Getting through the election was a good learning curve. O'Brien made a motion to make town clerk's salary \$42,770, McPhetres seconded, so moved. Cilley's added compensation was given in lieu of taking insurance benefits. This will begin on Jan. 1, 2021.

**Town Meeting:** There was a discussion about the VT laws pertaining to moving the date of the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Town Meeting. They outline a procedure where by a small group of people will need to meet and vote to postpone the Town Meeting until Saturday, May 22, 2021. The May meeting will be held at the fairgrounds with COVID safe practices.

**School District Separation Vote:** This vote will be re-worded to reflect new voting hours and location; Saturday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 10am-7pm at the Town Hall. Absentee ballots accepted. There will be an informational meeting Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at 7pm via ZOOM, accessed via the Selectboard zoom meeting link.

**General Budget:** 2020 brings in less income from building rentals and wedding licenses. There will be an audit in 2021. The last one was in 2018-2019. Appreciations for Janet Zug volunteer hours on the Tunbridge Quarterly.

Selectboard and Treasurer Becky Hoyt combed through the general budget and came up with a working number that is just over a 2% decrease. The highway budget working number from last week is also about 2% decrease. A lot of the savings are thanks to the fact that Hoyt changed insurance to MVP.

**Employee Resignation:** McPhetres motioned to accept resignation of Jola Brock as town lister and assistant to town treasurer. O'Brien seconded, so moved. Discussion as to whether position

needed to be filled before town meeting vote. Ruddell mentioned it was not pressing. O'Brien suggested it might be good to get someone up and running.

**Warrants:** McPhetres motioned to pay warrants, O'Brien seconded, so moved.

**Minutes from Dec 8<sup>th</sup>:** O'Brien moved to accept, McPhetres seconded, so moved.

**Other Business:**

Ruddell mentioned adjustment to Coutu Court Road name to facilitate 911 response.

Library Trustee Chair Carrie Cooker resignation accepted by Selectboard. O'Brien moved, McPhetres seconded, so moved. The Selectboard decided to gather recommendations from the public as to a replacement.

Terami discussed with the Selectboard ideas about best practices for informing newly elected officials about their legal responsibilities. Mullen noted that after Town Meeting each year the VT League of Cities and Town holds a symposium for this education. Suggestions were made that maybe a sort of "welcome folder" could be distributed at the swearing in of officials.

9:02 pm McPhetres moved to adjourn, O'Brien seconded, so moved.