

Tunbridge Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Jan. 26, 2021

Via Zoom

Present: Gary Mullen (chair), Mike McPhetres (Vice), John O'Brien (clerk), Becky Hoyt, Betsy Race, Wendy Palthey, Eve Ermer, Todd Tyson, Kathi Terami, Liz York, Laura Ginsburg, Eliza Minnucci, Dan Ruddell, Katherine Strong

6pm Mullen brings meeting to order

McPhetres moved, O'Brien second, so moved, Jan. 4th minutes approved
McPhetres moved, O'Brien second, so moved, Jan 12th minutes approved

Road Report: Dodge 1 ton is fixed. Still getting quotes on the new 1 ton.
Motion made by McPhetres to purchase a worker lift for the loader, estimated cost around \$2,200. This would be a platform with rails, and safety harnesses, allowing crew to safely remove branches up high. O'Brien seconded; vote was affirmative for this purchase.

Mill Bridge update, broken boards are off, waiting for good weather to install the new ones.

Selectboard budget- McPhetres made a motion to pass the Selectboard budget, O'Brien seconded, it was passed.

General fund \$611,503.51 of which \$356,903.51 will be raised by taxes
This is down 1.7% from the previous year.

Highway fund \$961,140 of which \$825,790 will be raised by taxes this is down 3% from last year, an estimate 1 cent savings for taxes on the highway budget.

Appropriations- After a discussion on the submitted appropriations it was tabled until the next meeting.

Town Meeting will be Saturday, May 22, 2021 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds at 10 am. CDC guidelines for safe gatherings will be followed. McPhetres made the motion to move Town Meeting, O'Brien seconded, and it was passed. H48 that the Governor signed last week, gives municipal leaders the authority to change the date of Town Meeting this year due to COVID safety concerns. Warning and more information will follow at a later date. Mullen jokingly suggested a tractor pull may follow the meeting.

Legal Trails policy- The Selectboard asked the town planning commission to look into developing a legal trails policy/ordinance. Laura Ginsburg on behalf of the planning commission received the charge. She said she will be posting to Front Porch Forum to notify townspeople of

when this discussion will take place. Betsy Race noted that in the old vault in the basement of the Town Hall there may be maps.

Mailbox policy was discussed. The Selectboard is working on wording a policy that addresses the concerns of people who believe their mailbox was hit by the town plow. It was noted that snow and ice being moved can sometimes push a rotten post over, and that it is a different scenario than the plow blade actually hitting a mailbox. The road foreman has said that it is obvious to the driver when they actually hit a solid post with the blade.

The town created a snow custodian position for the remaining months of this winter. This person will be in charge of removing snow from around the Town office, and library, and the shared church ramp. McPhetres made a motion to hire Andy Bogardus to fill this position for the remaining months of this winter. O'Brien seconded; Mullen recused himself. Bogardus is hired \$16/hr.

Discussion of promoting town businesses on the website. Waiting to hear if the town can legally earn revenue or even just promote private business in an equitable way. Pros and cons were mentioned.

Transfer station tickets- Katherine Strong speaking for Mick McGuire answered questions from the Board. If using Spotify, it is a month-to-month commitment of \$8-\$9. Town can use their credit card processor, and it would be integrated into town website.

McPhetres moved, O'Brien seconded motion for Mullen to sign off on the warrants.

Other business: Mullen granted permission to prune around historic marker.

8:00 McPhetres moved to adjourn, O'Brien seconded, so moved.