

TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 9TH, 2021 via ZOOM

Present: Mike McPhetres (vice chair), John O'Brien (clerk), Gary Mullen (Chair), Fern Strong, Eve Ermer, John Echevarria, Betsy Race, Anisa Morrison, Maureen McCullough, Dan Ruddell, Wendy Palthey

6pm meeting commenced

O'Brien moved to approve Jan. 26th minutes, McPhetres seconded, so moved.

Road Report: All was well this week at Town garage. Sand, gravel, salt stocks holding up.

New 1 ton truck purchase approved. McPhetres made a motion to except the bid from Key Chevrolet in WRJ, VT for \$36,286.00. O'Brien seconded, so moved. After purchase the truck will need to be outfitted with accessories such as plow, sander, and dump body.

O'Brien made the motion to accept the resignation of Eve Ermer as a library trustee effective February 28, 2021. The Selectboard thanked and appreciated Eve for her service.

Laura Ginsburg from the Planning Commission has been added to the Town Zoom account in order to hold accessible Planning Commission meetings safely.

Timing for Town report was discussed with auditors. Morrison requested that it be ready for proofreading the 3rd week in March. Mailing will be around the 3rd week in April.

O'Brien proposed the establishment of two committees to serve at the pleasure of the board for one trial year:

Trails committee- explore the best way to support and encourage our natural resources of trails. Including but not limited to, walking, skiing, snow machine, biking, horseback riding.

Food committee-Suggested by House Ag. Committee for towns to start. Would be proactive in all food, farm, agriculture promotion and support in town. This would include but not limited to; farm to school, senior meals, food shelf, and agriculture.

O'Brien is soliciting volunteers who have interest in these areas.

Mailbox vs plow policy established:

McPhetres made a motion and O'Brien seconded, the policy was approved.

"In the event that your mailbox and/or post was knocked over and you feel the Town is responsible:

If you feel that your mailbox or mailbox post was adequately mounted and braced, please submit a written request for reimbursement. All requests for reimbursement of a damaged

box/post shall be in writing to the Select Board, and shall include the date, time, location and cause of the incident and submit photographs showing the damage.

If the Road Foreman determines that the mailbox damage was a result of direct contact from a Town vehicle, and not the result of other factors, such as a decayed post or the accumulation of snow, the owner of the mailbox shall be entitled to reimbursement for replacement of comparable item. If the damage is caused by flying snow and ice as a result of plowing, there will be no compensation. “

Dan Ruddell (Lister) informed the Selectboard they were closing the grand list for the year. There were no outstanding appeals.

O’Brien made a motion to allow Mullen to approve warrants as he saw fit. McPhetres seconded so moved.

Other Business:

Betsy Race the Town Health Officer requested that the Selectboard appoint another officer, so she can step down.

She gave an update on ongoing issues in town with 2 new house owners who did not have a state permits for a septic. The Town may have to use some enforcement.

John Echeverria, a Tunbridge landowner, voiced his concern about trails and access. He has approach the Selectboard to adopt some kind of policy in this area. The Selectboard has asked the Planning Commission to take on this task. They are scheduling meetings over the next month and encourage anyone interested to join.

There are grant opportunities regarding the transfer station. The Town will inquire as to if any of these will benefit the Town operations.

Due to the legal precedent, the Town will not be promoting businesses in Town on their website.

7:45 McPhetres motioned to adjourn, O’Brien seconded, so moved.

