

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING- draft**

Tuesday, June 22nd, 2021, 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Becky Hoyt, Aileen Lem-Zoom, Jim Merriam, Daniel "Rudi" Ruddell-Zoom, Jim _____ - Zoom

Approve Minutes: McPhetres makes a motion to approve the June 8th Selectboard meeting minutes as written. O'Brien seconds. So moved.

McPhetres makes a motion to table the Town Meeting minutes approval until the next Selectboard meeting. O'Brien seconds. So moved.

Road Report: Road Foreman Rodney Hoyt has been out of work due to a pinched nerve. The road crew cleaned up trees from a rain storm the previous day. They have been ditching and grading due to moisture in the roads. The grader is all fixed with a new starter from Daves. The road crew put 2-3 loads of stone and a culvert in on Frye Road and trimmed the trees lining the road. Rita from Two Rivers is helping to deal with the APRA grant. Guardrails will be installed on Friday 6/25 on Dickerman Hill Road.

Belknap Solar Project: Jim Merriam- Norwich Technologies

The Chapman Family Farm sold to the Upper Valley Land Trust. The UVLT only purchases properties up to the appraised value, so there was a \$70k difference in which Norwich Solar invested so the sale could go through. There are two different options for Solar Array of which they are looking to get approved.

1. 2.2 megawatt: Large scale project. Auction with the state of who can do solar the cheapest. Only 4 projects are awarded per year. Potential to have to upgrade the lines with Green Mountain Power for this to work.
2. 500kW: Most likely. Most of VT activity occurs at this range. Net metering.

All abutting land owners are duly warned of this type of project. They have to get approved for aesthetic, feasibility (GMP), historic preservation review and a review by the ANR. The town as well as the abutting landowners are all given copies of each report and warned of each step. Very transparent.

Merriam was asking the Selectboard for approval. The Planning Commission approved at their last meeting. If the Selectboard approves they can move to the state. The land on Belknap Brook Road is not considered prime agricultural land.

The size of the first option will be around the same size as the Sharon Solar Array. In recent years the panel wattage density has decreased so the footprint has decreased.

The applicant will make all reasonable efforts to allow participation by local municipal, school and nonprofits to receive net metering credits.

Completion time: Up to one (1) year for public utilities commission, physical build around three (3) months. Could be as soon as the end of summer 2022, most likely spring 2023.

McPhetres motions to approve the preferred sighting designation. O'Brien seconds. So moved. A.A. Cilley will receive the letter to be brought forth to the Selectboard to sign at the next meeting and sent back.

Open Positions: Cilley discussed the three open positions. Truant Officer is held by the Orange County Sheriff's office. Cilley will contact ADA directly to see if we are required to hold a coordinator position. Could not find state language or description for Recycling Coordinator or Animal Control officer. Will come up with a description and send to SB for approval prior to next meeting.

Septic Info: Cilley reached out to our local DEC enforcer and has not heard back. Will reach out to Peter Walkee (Commissioner DEC) directly for this and the junkyard to see what we can do as a municipality level.

Chervil: Cilley found information from the VT Fish and Game in regards to handling chervil. The answer was to mow it as often and frequently as we can and it will eventually kill the root system. Could take years.

Liquor Licenses: Cilley has determined that liquor licenses can only be approved by the Selectboard.

Zoom Setup: Cilley is waiting to hear back from RB Technologies for a quote. Encourages the board to consider this set up if we continue to do hybrid meetings and for all other committee and town members. Will look to see if we can use our ARPA money for this.

APRA Grant: O'Brien moves to appoint the Administrative Assistant Mariah Cilley as the authorized representative for grants from here moving forward. McPhetres seconds. So moved.

Warrants: Warrants were signed and approved.

Other Business: The Board requests that Mariah Lawrence gives them a cost estimate for the other items she is interested in for the library yard update.

Aileen Lem discussed briefly about her work with the Town of Strafford with their Anti-Racism policy. She is also working on looking at a statewide policy that would allow towns to more easily remove an elected official if they "go rouge".

The Board asks Cilley to make a note for Town Meeting 2022 to discuss changing the Town Clerk and Treasurer position to appointed positions instead of elected.

ShinDig Capacity is 149 (fire code) following the guidance from the Governor. May need to reevaluate in the fall.

Rec Breakfasts- mentioned but no dates set yet.

Parade on July 5th – Parade at 10am on Main Street. Fire Department doing BBQ Chickens. Library is doing a book and bake sale.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk