

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:08pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Rodney Hoyt, Aileen Lem, Mariah Lawrence, Theresa Fitzgerald, Matt Frost

Approve Minutes: O'Brien makes a motion to move the approval of the minutes until after Other Business. McPhetres seconds. So moved.

Road Report: Road Foreman- Rodney Hoyt

Strafford Road bids need approval for the new culvert. We have two bids: Matt Loftus at \$3800.00 and J.L. Smith at \$5400.00. Bids do not cover stones and culvert which the town will buy. They are changing the culvert from a 2.5' to 3'. Lots of granite left over from the Chelsea bridge work which will get recycled to this project. The paving is also not included in this bid price. The town's Electronic sign will be put up at the bottom of Strafford Road noting its closure for the day once we have a timeframe. McPhetres motions to accept Matt Loftus's bid. O'Brien seconds. So moved.

Truck #2 is at McClouds again. They just had new bushings put in about three weeks ago and those have failed.

Hard Scrabble Road Grant- George Elderd will do this job.

Russell Road Grant- will be wrapped up in August. Matt Loftus is doing this project.

Dickerman Hill Road- Guardrails will be installed at an unknown date; they have scheduled and cancelled a few times already. Will cost possibly more than estimated. \$3600.

Crack Sealers have come for two days but owe us one more day. If they have extra time to make a full day Hoyt will send them to Howe Lane, but wanted to get the heavier trafficked roads first.

Tree Bid- Isaac Sacca of Vermont Tree Company bid \$1200-\$1500 for the removal of three dead elms and a maple tree at Howe Bridge. McPhetres makes a motion to accept the bid. O'Brien seconds. So moved.

Ton Truck Body- will be shipped on July 19th.

Ditching/Grading- Hoyt thinks where they put extra chloride for the dust is where the roads are the muddiest. Chloride holds water. They will be grading the Recreation Road on Wednesday 7/14/21.

When the paving is done they will be adding 1 1/4" material from McCulloughs Crushing for shoulder work.

Mulch Hay- 100 bales of mulch hay at \$3.00 per bale. \$300 total. Mullen tells Hoyt to grab it.

Library Trustees Energy Audit: Theresa Fitzgerald- Library Trustee

The library received a free virtual audit from Efficiency VT. The furnace was suggested to get replaced. It is constantly in need of maintenance. The propane and electric bill were in budget for last winter, but is probably not a true reflection because the library was closed last winter due to COVID. Fitzgerald spoke with Rhymes Propane about switching to them because the cost of propane is about \$1.00 less per gallon, but the 500 gallon tank is owned by Dead River so we would have to either purchase the tank or they would dig it up and remove it. Dead River doesn't want to lose our business so they said they could negotiate price.

Fitzgerald will get estimates from Gillespie, Ben Linehan, DR Heat and Dead River on the cost of a new furnace and bring it forth to the Selectboard.

Efficiency VT also suggested a heat pump which would act as an A/C and dehumidifier. Other ideas are to close off the stairwell and insulate the floors.

The Library Trustees are asking for \$8000 from Public Funds and \$1000 from the Town Fund and are looking to replace the furnace by the winter.

O'Brien is looking for a contact from Woodstock named John who has information on what you can/can't do in a historical district.

Outdoor Library Estimate/Ideas: Mariah Lawrence- Librarian who saw a three legged fox but did not save it.

\$11,425 was raised in honor of Sue. The fence that Corner Rail quoted would cost about \$8500 for vinyl all the way around. They have decided to do split rail with mesh in the back which will decrease the total cost. They will be doing a Story walk around the inside of the fence with COVID money. Each member of the Outdoor Space Committee took an item to research for price/ local sourcing. They are looking at incorporating the following:

- Sun Shade
- Reading Nook
- Seating for Kids
- Bird Garden, Sensory Garden or Tasting Garden
- Sandbox with Cover
- Tiny Picnic Table
- Mud Kitchen
- Large Picnic Table
- Sign in honor of Sue " Bumblebee Garden"

The fence will be put in around Fair time. The Story walk will go up after the fence. The sign, sandbox etc could possibly go in before the fence. Looking at a year for total completion.

VLTC Conflict of Interest Policy Discussion: Aileen Lem

Residents of Tunbridge and Strafford came together to work on an update for Strafford's Conflict of Interest Policy. The group suggested adding non-discriminatory language. Strafford used the base VLTC policy but added the new language and adopted this policy in 2020. They added

definitions on discrimination, protected class (gender, race, LGBTQ+ etc.) and harassment. The group changed the pronouns to gender neutral and added enforcement for discrimination.

They sent this newly updated policy to an attorney which was approved. Lem is here tonight to offer the document to the Selectboard to review and decide if it is something the town wants to adopt as well.

There is still no way to remove an elected official without a town Charter. With this policy, you can hold people accountable and have a discussion with them or suggest they resign.

Lem stated it is not super common for towns to have this policy, but are hoping that it will catch wind and become statewide.

Lem suggests the Selectboard review the document, put it out for public comment, warn it and vote on it. This document covers all appointed and elected officials regardless of hours worked.

Dispersal of Public Funds: Matt Frost- Trustee of Public Funds

The deadline for dispersal requests is mid-July. They do this because they want to have requests and dispersals fall in the same fiscal year. It only takes 2-3 weeks for fund dispersal. Special Projects funds can be used for projects that benefit the Town, ex. Weathering the town office, transfer station improvements, library work. They allow dispersal up to 4% of the funds. There are restrictions for each fund. The two funds that they have not received a request for are the Fire Department and Special Funds. The fund dispersal is up to the discretion of the Trustees each year. Frost discussed that the Special Funds could be used for the library. O'Brien makes a motion to approve the 4% dispersal from special projects to be used for the furnace at the library. McPhetres seconds. So moved.

Policing: Cilley brought forth two bids for policing. The Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Royalton Police. We are budgeted at \$10,000. We receive 217.39 hours from the OCSO right now. Royalton PD is offering 520 hours at \$50 per hour, which would be over budget at \$26,000. Cilley will ask the Royalton PD Chief to come next meeting to discuss.

Warrants: Warrants were signed and approved.

Other Business: Cilley will look and see if the ARPA Grant money will cover our new Zoom set up which comes in around \$1300.00.

Cilley will post open positions. The Health Officer Besty Race will be done as of August 30. This position will also be posted.

The Selectboard discussed the Transfer Station recycling filling up so quickly now that more out of town people are using our transfer station for free recycling. Discussions of resident stickers to use the transfer station. Also looking at creating a policy for commercial use of the transfer station.

McPhetres states the planning commission should see an attorney on their policy and if they are required to share it along the way or not. McPhetres makes a motion to approve the use of an attorney, O'Brien seconds. So moved. McPhetres will contact the Planning Commission Chair.

There needs to be a new sign ordered for The Crossroad and Hoyt will call Randolph to see why Dickerman Hill Road is PVT on their end.

Are we interested in purchasing the Quarry land previously discussed? Check with Treasurer if we could use our Highway Surplus to purchase as it is a gravel pit which will be used by Highway.

Minutes from the May 25th meeting were approved. Minutes from Town Meeting and June 22nd meeting were sent back for edits.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk