

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, July 27, 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, Rodney Hoyt, Brenda Field, Chief Loretta Stalnaker, Rebecca Hoyt, Anne Linehan
Aileen Lem, John Echeverria, Todd Tyson, Laura Ginsburg- Zoom

Royalton Police Department Offer: Loretta Stalnaker- Chief of Police
Stalnaker and Selectboard discussed what our town is looking for in our policing contract. Stalnaker encourages us to create ordinances for speed, stop signs, parking, dogs etc., because the town gets some of that money back when fines are written. McPhetres discussed that we are looking for help with follow up on calls. Communication is key. Royalton PD does respond to all crime calls except homicide, in which case the Vermont State Police will be called. The Royalton PD is available 2am- 11pm every day, and the VSP handles the calls between 2am-7am. The board and Chief Stalnaker discussed having a dedicated Tunbridge officer that would be the one to cover calls and follow up. Royalton PD has three full time officers and they are considered animal cruelty officers as well. The VSP does Royalton's dispatching. Chief Stalnaker suggests that we meet with Sherriff Bohnyak to discuss what we are looking for from his department as well. If we decide to go with Royalton PD, Chief Stalnaker will need to run the agreement by Royalton's Selectboard for final approval.

Road Report: Road Foreman- Rodney Hoyt

Crack sealing is completed. The paving job on Strafford Road is completed. Work is currently being done on the shoulders as well as the ditches on Dickerman Hill Road. Recreation Road was graded to get the mud off. Hoyt believes the chloride usage correlates with the mud.

Strafford Road culvert project will take place on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. The road will be closed that day. Cilley will reach out to other surrounding towns to let them know of the closure as well as reaching out to Simon Bradford in regards to the ambulance and fire department.

The new one ton will be delivered this week. They are about a month out from getting the body on it.

Pickett's is crushing gravel right now to 5/8th- winter sand.

10 wheeler is still not fixed. Is currently getting worked on.

O'Brien asked Rodney to start thinking about town garage expansion so we can get an estimate started.

Trails Committee Update: Anne Linehan

Other towns have minimal to nonexistent policy's regarding legal trails. They are looking to us to pave the way. Many townspeople don't know about the legal trails or the issues surrounding

them. They considered mailing out a survey for questions and thoughts, but decided on a fact sheet instead to post on the website.

A state wetlands ecologist will be coming to walk the trails and give scientific expertise. Linehan asked if the Selectboard had a suggestion for a deadline on a final recommendation.

Mullen, O'Brien and McPhetres talked about the history of legal trails coming from roads getting downgraded to class 3, to class 4 and then to a trail, but not wanting to give up the public access or maintain a road, so it is turned into a legal trail. Linehan stated she would add history definition on fact sheet.

The Selectboard decided they would like the final recommendation by September 7th, 2021.

Antidiscrimination Policy: Aileen Lem

Lem updated the policy to reflect Tunbridge. She discussed what was added and changed from the VLCT model. O'Brien asked if Lem's group sent this back to VLCT to see if they wanted to adopt this better policy. She said it was sent back but they didn't hear back.

Selectboard will warn the adoption of this policy at the end of a thirty (30) day public comment. They will meet to adopt this policy on September 21, 2021. The document will be posted on the town's website for discussion during this period.

Fuel Usage: Becky Hoyt- Treasurer

Hoyt gave the Selectboard an overview on usage in gallons of oil, diesel and propane for 2019 and 2020. Diesel usage was down in 2020. Oil is used for the Town Office, Town Hall and Town Garage. Propane is used at the Transfer Station, Town Hall and Library.

Next meeting Theresa Fitzgerald will give a detailed discussion on fuel prices and comparisons.

Letter of Concern: Brenda Field

Letter presented on behalf of Hoyt Hill Organic Dairy Family Farm regarding major loss and devastation from the negligence of EC Fiber and subcontractors in their disposal of their wire. This could end up being a multi-year long issue for the Hoyts. Field noted that agriculture is a big part of our Town Plan and is hoping presenting this letter with signatures to Governor Scott and Bernie Sanders will help make a change as well and help them get emergency funding. O'Brien asked Field to add a sentence regarding how this should lead to best practices during broadband expansion.

The Selectboard suggests having just signatures of the municipal employees (Selectboard, Planning Commission, Treasurer, Town Clerk) to begin with and if we need to we can create a petition for a larger portion of signatures later on.

Field will hand deliver to the Governor, Public Utility Commission and Christine Hallquist.

Discussion to create an emergency fund and application process where townspeople could come to the town requesting help during situations like this.

McPhetres makes a motion to send a letter to the Governor and other officials about EC Fiber/Hoyt Farm debacle. O'Brien seconds. So moved.

Tax Rate: Rebecca Hoyt- Treasurer

Hoyt presents the Selectboard the Tax Rate for Worksheet for 2021.

Resident Rate is 2.3585

Non Resident Rate is 2.3330.

Tax rate signed and approved by Selectboard.

Hoyt also requests to bring her dog in this fall during her work hours. Selectboard agrees to a trial basis.

Warrants: Warrants were signed and approved.

Other Business:

Discussion on three health officer applicants. All with health backgrounds and interest. Will let them know of the \$400/year budget, as well as invite them to next meeting (8/10/21) to speak with current Health Officer.

Liquor licenses approved.

Mullen called about Quarry, but wasn't able to get in contact with anyone.

Cilley discussed TextMyGov option regarding better communication with the municipal offices. Will request a 20 minute demo next meeting.

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 8:48 pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk