

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:09pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Rodney Hoyt, Brenda Field, Sherriff Bill Bohnyak, Cpt. Scott Clouatre, Peter Hayden- Zoom, Theresa Fitzgerald Michael Sacca, John Echeverria, Todd Tyson, Anissa Morrison, Laura Ginsberg, Fred Pond

Orange County Sherriff Department: Bill Bohnyak- Sherriff, Scott Clouatre- Captain Bohnyak and the Selectboard discuss policing contract. The OCSD created an email address which can be used by Tunbridge residents who would like to email complaints or non-emergent issues. This will also help with the communication issues in regards to having follow up ability. If we had a major incident the department would call on the Vermont State Police so as not to use up our contracted hours. Bohnyak stated that Officer Jenkins and McRae reside in Tunbridge and would be able to attend to an emergent call even if they were off duty so that we could have the police presence in town that we wanted. Bohnyak and Clouatre stated that they have the man power if we wanted to increase our contract hours so that we have more coverage in town. They currently patrol four hours per week the main streets and back road. Crime is high now and they will do their best to respond and follow up in a timely manner.

Road Report: Road Foreman- Rodney Hoyt
Hot this week.

Culvert is getting put in on the Strafford Road on Wednesday August 11th. Sand started coming in today. Hoyt requests to have J.L. Smith haul 3000 yards of spring stone (1 ¼ inch). McPhetres makes a motion to have J.L. Smith haul spring gravel not to exceed 3000 yards. O'Brien seconds. So moved. Hoyt explains they are needing to get in more stone for ditching.

Hoyt is going to get 1000 yards of 2" stone for when mud is serious this coming spring. The town crew will haul it; it will come out of the gravel budget so no motion is needed.

Larry's truck is back now. McLeod's believes it could have been a bent rim. Within the next week the new truck body will be in.

Garage Addition: Hoyt wants to dream big and then meet in the middle with the Selectboard. He would like a four bay addition on the garage. Requests the Selectboard come out to the garage and discuss their options.

Four Town Coalition Project Discussion: Michael Sacca

Tunbridge had previously approved \$1000 to VISTA as did other towns to help hire a liaison between the Selectboard's and other organizations. Megan was hired and starts Monday as the liaison focusing on VCRD, working landscape, trails, natural resources and economic development. The Green Mountain Economic Development Council will send the invoice in September. Megan will be going around to each town and will learn the histories of each area and will be helping with boots on the ground projects. The Old Chapman Farm is on the agenda.

She will be drafting a Letter of Intent for Trail work. There is six million dollars in grant funding available that she will help our towns receive.

Planning Commission Update: Laura Ginsburg

Class Four Road Policy- Draft: Topics of discussion in this policy are if the roads are used or not used and for what, designated parking spots, possible areas where the road crew could build out an area for parking with proper signage. The town could close these roads when they deemed fit: mud season, rain, snow or ice events. Discussion of the use of Class Four Roads for organized events (ex. The Ranger or the Green Mountain Horse Show). These events would have to provide a route and a parking plan, signs on the route one week in advance and notice of the route posted on the website which would need approval. These events will also be required to have liability insurance. This policy will be paired with the legal trails policy and can be adopted as one.

Ginsburg has not found many Class 4 Road Policies in other towns. All Class Four Roads are considered rights-of-way of which the town has the ability to decide how they are maintained. In Tunbridge they have had to put two culverts in within the last 12 months on our Class Four roads. Ginsburg has requested the Selectboard read the highlighted areas of the policy and decide if they want to make changes and if they would like to be involved in the approval of routes.

Trails Committee- Anne Linehan has resigned as chair. Ginsburg is joining their next meeting to see and if the committee needs support from the Planning Commission. Ginsburg and Rudi Ruddell met with a Wetlands Ecologist and walked the Crossroad trail. It is a Class 2 wetland on its lowest point. The size is smaller than the state size for priority. The Ecologist said it was fine for non-motorized use and that if we wanted to do causeway work we may need a permit, but it was an area in which we could add water bars and add a constructed trail on the dry side. They reached out to Forest Parks and Recreation to see if they have concerns surrounding this area, of which they determined there would be no negative impact if it was opened up. It was previously culverted but these culverts were taken out many years ago and it is too late for it to be considered an update.

Legal Counsel- Paul Gillies is willing to provide review and advice. He is not willing to do a lawsuit or go to court. We will need his services for the Class Four Road and Trail Policies. O'Brien moves to allow the Trails Committee and Planning Commission to employ Gillies for legal advice for the issues the Trails Committee and Planning Commission are working on. McPhetres seconds. So moved.

Health Officer Discussion/ Permit & Licensing Info Sheet: Betsy Race- Health Officer
Race created a permit and license info sheet as an internal system for sharing information between departments. It would be given to homeowners looking to build, renovate or rent in Tunbridge where they would have to initial that they read each item and would require a septic permit number, a date they spoke with the Road Foreman about a driveway permit etc to help us have a better grasp on important information. Race has requested that the Selectboard call the state to see what is happening with a few open septic system cases. O'Brien is designated to call.

Jodi Hoyt came with interest of the Health Officer position. Hoyt just moved to Tunbridge and is a RN and Case Manager. Race will call Hoyt to discuss all the position entails. Next meeting we will appoint Hoyt as the Health Officer and will recommend her to the State.

Furnace Bids: Theresa Fitzgerald- Library Trustee

Fitzgerald received three bids for furnaces. 1. DR Heat \$4374.68 2. Dead River \$7985.00 3. Gillespie \$6518.36 for one furnace, \$7091.67 for a second and \$1852.42 for duct work.

Gillespie believes the one furnace did not survive the length it should have because it was being over worked to heat the whole building when there should be one for each section based on the size and the vaulted ceilings. Fitzgerald was also informed that the heat should remain in 6 degree window to maintain the life of the furnace.

The Library Trustees made a motion to support the Gillespie work at their last meeting. If we switch to Gillespie for the furnace work we will also have to switch tanks which would require unburying the one we have now and getting a new above ground one. The Selectboard states that we would be able to unbury the tank and Dead River will take away. If we go with Gillespie for a fuel contract the tank will not cost us and the price of propane they could offer us was \$1.71/ gallon. The library can afford one furnace and the duct work, will need help with funds for the second furnace and getting the tank out.

After discussion Fitzgerald stated they will move forward with Gillespie's tank, propane, duct work and one furnace for now.

Power Pedal Event, Energy/Recreation Grant Opportunity, and Municipal Funding

Consideration: Todd Tyson

Pedal Power to the People Fundraiser for the radio station on August 21, 2021 from the Fair Grounds. This is their 8th year. They have two runs: the Milk Run (14 miles) and the Beer Run (38 miles). Small scale event around 50 people. All participants are required to sign a waiver and the radio station can send the liability waiver to the Town if requested.

VORAC- Focused on outdoor recreation economy. There is money available for grants for outdoor structures. Tyson is wondering if the Selectboard would be open to applying for a grant for a structure/kiosk as a hub for people to see maps of places to hike, bike, etc. The grant also covers solar panels to be added to the top and an EV charging station. Selectboard said Tyson could pursue and let us know what he finds out.

Funding from ARPA Grant- Tyson is wondering how we will spend the money and if there will be input from the townspeople. He would like to look into solar or septic updating if that is a possibility.

Text My Gov Presentation:

The Selectboard and Field received a brief overview of a new type of municipal communication.

Approve Warrants:

Warrants were signed and approved.

Approve Minutes from July 27th Meeting: Minutes were tabled and taken home by the Selectboard for review. Will approve at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Brenda Field has come back to the Selectboard with a letter regarding the Hoyts to be sent to the Governor as a relief request for the Hoyts. O'Brien makes a motion to send a letter to the Governor. McPhetres seconds. So moved.

Peter Hayden: Owns land around the Quarry on Forsyth Road. Discourages the purchase from the town to use as a quarry. Hayden offers an alternative that he would purchase the land to be stabilized and control its future. He also has other rock that is on his property that the town is welcome to gather and crush and see if it would work for us and if it does we are welcome to have it. Mullen will call the owner of the Quarry and let her know that Hayden will be the point person moving forward to purchase the property from her.

Cilley handed the Selectboard a folder that was given to her from Betsy Gaiser regarding Falls Hill Legal Trail for their perusal if interested.

Janet Zug has requested more lighting in the Town Hall. The Selectboard is asking her to come forward with an estimate for the next meeting.

Cilley gave the Selectboard a draft noise ordinance so they can make adjustments as needed.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk