

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Fern Strong, Nan Frost, Susan Salster, Liz York, Johnathan Bicknell, John Echeverria, Brenda Field, Ian MacKenzie, Seth Homes, Buck Russell, Israel Provoncha, Maureen McCullough, Betsy Gaiser, Todd Tyson, Matt Frost, Daniel "Rudi" Ruddell, Josh Benson, Jena Trombly, George White, Mitch Taylor

Road Report- Rodney Hoyt Via Mike McPhetres

Four-wheel drive went on a truck last week. Hoyt drained the oil and there were metal chips, so it was trailered to Lebanon to get worked on. Freightliner is looking for parts now. Hoyt wants Cilley to call up to Montpelier State Garage to see if they have extra trucks available for rent should we need one. They are getting the grader chained up and ready if needed for plowing.

Trumbull-Nelson came to look at the garage and told us there were structural issues that makes adding on to it not feasible. Black River Design will come to look at the garage and give their opinion.

Questions raised regarding the Transfer Station. It was closed two Saturdays in a row and will be cold again on Wednesday. Who is in charge of closing? When do we decide to get the compactor empty? Could we look into getting an overflow box and an extra container for recycling.

Discussion of Legal Trail #2- John Echeverria

Echeverria is seeking permission to enclose with a gate the Legal Trail #2. He is looking to bring cows back to the Dodge Farm and he needs to put up fence to keep the cows out of wetlands and other parts of the pasture. The legal trail will go through fences that can be opened by pedestrians. The State of Vermont is helping Echeverria come up with proposal regarding how to water the cows when they don't have access to the stream. There will be pipes run in the stream with water troughs throughout. The water pipe would be in the right-of-way of the trail. Corner Rail Fence Co., will be doing the fencing. O'Brien asks Echeverria if he is looking at different styles of fences which can be more historic and less permanent. McPhetres thinks this request sounds very reasonable. O'Brien thinks as long as this is an easy pass through for pedestrians then it would be fine.

McPhetres makes a motion to allow John Echeverria to put up gates that can be opened by pedestrians or a style that can be used by pedestrians. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Todd Tyson asks who gives the go ahead to remove debris from a trail. McPhetres believes the landowner approves the removal of trees and debris.

Discussion of ATV Use Ordinance- Ian MacKenzie

MacKenzie and his VASA group will be on the ballot and the informational meeting in Royalton.

He wanted to meet with our Selectboard today to continue the conversation of potentially getting access and an ordinance in place to some portions of our town roads. MacKenzie and his group went over some main points regarding what the group is looking for, they shared a map looking at the roads they are looking to access and stated that they would be very interested in a trial period as well as doing what they can to make this a positive impact on the community. Mullen states that this isn't going to be something that will happen overnight and that it will take a lot of community input and discussion.

Casella Update- Mitch Taylor

Taylor states that in order to break even on our Casella fees each month we should be charging \$2.50/30gal bag or \$18/yd bulk for recycling. We are currently spending about \$1700 per month in recycling fees. If we had 700 bags per month at that price it would cover the cost. The Selectboard states that many people don't bring bags. Taylor states that it involves a lot of guesswork. O'Brien asks if any recyclables are valuable right now. Taylor states that aluminum is valuable right now but it is very complicated because you have to get it baled and hauled to a place that will pay the most in a 20 ton load. The Selectboard states that we make half our money to run the transfer station in dump tickets. Mullen is fearful that people will get upset if we start charging too much. Taylor states we should at least be charging for appliances. Taylor will send sheets of what we should be charging for all things. Taylor will look into an 8 yard container as well as an RV container to have a backup for recycling or trash overflow.

Town Meeting Date Determination

May 21st, 2022. Cilley will ask permission to do this on the fairgrounds again. McPhetres motions to move Town Meeting to May 21,2022. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Final Budget Discussion

The ambulance budget was \$56,740.00. The General Fund Budget is up \$0.01 which is 3% from last year and the Highway Budget is up \$0.03 which is up 3% from last year as well. The Selectboard wants to look into creating a Capital Improvement Fund for the Town Garage as well as potentially creating a Tunbridge Loan Fund for small issues and damages people face (medical, house lost to fire etc.). The total for the General Fund Budget is \$631,772.25 with \$375,557.25 being raised from taxes and the Highway Budget is \$1,013,555.13 with \$873,205.13 being raised from taxes.

McPhetres makes a motion to accept the figures for the General Fund Budget of \$631,772.25 and the Highway Budget of \$1,013,555.13. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Second EMD- Brenda Field

The REMC is requesting an Emergency Management Deputy as well as the Emergency Management Director. Field would like to have Simon Bradford come aboard for this position. McPhetres makes a motion to appoint Simon Bradford as Emergency Management Deputy. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Other Business:

Mullen would like Cilley to contact Efficiency Vermont or Capstone for an energy audit of the Town Hall.

Contact was made to Mike Barnaby regarding the cold temperature at the Transfer Station on Wednesday and to have him go in an extra hour to put the heaters on the hydraulics.

Warrants: Warrants were signed and approved.

Minutes from the December 14th, December 22nd, December 18th and January 11th meeting were moved for approval to the next meeting.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk