

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE  
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 11, 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, Laura Ginsburg, Scott Beavers, Nan Frost, Cal Heminway, Todd Tyson, Brenda Field, Deb Heminway, Betsy Gaiser, Shane Young, Anne Leeds, John Echeverria, Elizabeth Brown, Bill Heminway, Maureen McCullough, Matt Slayton, Sarah Heminway, Nate Stearns, Michael Sacca, Johnathan Bicknell, Amy Frost

**Road Report- Rodney Hoyt Via Mike McPhetres**

Sand pile is looking good. Picketts is still bringing in sand. There are 200 more yards at Picketts that Hoyt wants to get. They have had some fuel tank leaks and antifreeze leaks. They have been sanding and working on the trucks. McPhetres makes a motion to get the sand from Picketts. O'Brien seconds on the condition that we pay the price we paid in the fall. All aye. So moved.

McPhetres is reaching out to an engineering firm to help us get an estimate and quote for the Town Garage build.

**Discussion of Legal Trail #4- Cal Heminway and Nate Stearns**

Nate Stearns discusses the discontinuance of Legal Trail #4. The trail ends in the middle of Goodwin Hill property. Invites trespassing. There have been issues of jeeping as it is labeled as a "jeep trail." The signs did not help.

Cal Heminway- He participated with the Planning Commission. If we discontinue the trail he will still keep it open and not post it. The primary want for discontinuance would be the ability to put up barriers and have the right to choose without having to ask the town.

Anne Leeds- Cal and John E. have said that if towns do not close the trails they will close and post them themselves.

Scott Beavers- Hoping the Selectboard doesn't let the town become a mockery by "investment owners with deep pockets" that want to close off public access. The thought of suing neighbors for gain is ridiculous.

Michael Sacca- Agrees with Beavers that there is a legacy of people using other peoples land that is not posted. If this public trail is closed it will set a precedent that is dangerous. Land changes hands often. This would be a great time to have public private partnership.

Cal Heminway- Sitting here as someone who supposedly has deep pockets "hits him right between the eyes". He has owned land in Tunbridge for 45 years. He didn't know about this trail until 2020. He raised a point with the Selectboard in September that the town is advocating trespassing by having this trail open.

Anne Leeds- State statute says unless property is posted people do have legal right to be on it.

Nate Stearns- This is a unique situation that the trail dead ends. It was not noted on any VTRANs Highway Maps until 2013. They did not find evidence that this trail was every “formally” laid out.

Gary Mullen- We need to look at it a bit more before we decide one way or another.

Mike McPhetres- Agrees that we need to investigate it further.

John O’Brien- Cal and Nate: Do you want to see no one on your trail or just walkers or what are you looking for? If the town works with you as a landowner and we connected your trail to another property owner so it had a destination, would you work with the town to keep the legal trail? Cal- Yes. O’Brien- Please stay patient with the Selectboard and we will all work together to make it the best for everyone.

John Echeverria- Whether land is posted, it is considered trespass unless you are a hunter.

Laura Ginsburg- Based on questions Cal had asked her about, she had Paul Gillies investigate the trail info. Gillies did confirm that Legal Trail #4 is a legally accounted for legal trail. VTRANs has lots of information on this. Process can be started to connect the remaining old road to the legal trail.

Gary Mullen- The Selectboard will continue to look into this and get back to everyone soon.

#### **Planning Commission New Board Member Approval- Amy Frost**

McPhetres makes a motion to appoint Amy Frost to the Planning Commission. O’Brien seconds. Amy introduces herself. All aye. So moved.

#### **Town Meeting Discussion**

Postponing until later in the spring. McPhetres makes a motion to postpone Town Meeting to a later date pending the signature of the Governor. O’Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

#### **Budget Discussion #3**

The bottom line is up by 0.01 in the General Fund and 0.54 in the Highway Budget. Highway surplus was split into three line items. The \$138,236.76 surplus in the General Fund we can use part of to decrease the tax rate and put the other half towards a garage fund.

#### **Other Business**

Parmaley no longer cleans furnaces. He will bring a guy he knows with him to clean and check out the heating system in the Town Hall.

O’Brien makes a motion to use ARPA funds to put WIFI in the Town Hall to help spread people out and keep people safe during the COVID pandemic for our public meetings. McPhetres seconds. All aye. So moved.

**Warrants:** Warrants were signed and approved.

Minutes from the December 14<sup>th</sup>, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were moved for approval to the next meeting.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. Meeting adjourned.

---

Gary Mullen, Chair

---

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

---

John O'Brien, Clerk