

## **TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, July 26, 2022 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:15pm.

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Rodney Hoyt, Brenda Field, Becky Hoyt, Betsy Gaiser, Ingrid Pease, Michael Sacca, Daniel "Rudi" Ruddell, Patricia Beavers, Dean Goulet, Jake Goulet, Sarah Wraight, Johnathan Bicknell, Fred Pond, Evan Reiss, Dave Kimball, Laura Ginsburg, Karen Blow

### **Road Report- Rodney Hoyt**

McPhetres makes a motion to allow Hoyt to hire Isaac Sacca to cut two trees on Clarksville Road. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Trying to nail down some sand. E911 signs are taking a while to come in, we are missing 12. Discussion on Sawyer Hill continues. Ton truck goes back to the shop on Thursday to make sure there is no rust on it since we paid for powder coating and it didn't get done- should take less than a week. This will not cost us anything. Hoyt asks if we can get it undercoated as well. Selectboard approves the undercoating.

### **New Conservation Commission Member- Betsy Gaiser**

Request that Evan Reiss be appointed to the Conservation Commission. Reiss introduces himself. McPhetres makes a motion to appoint Evan Reiss to the Conservation Commission. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Gaiser is looking to clean up the First Branch around the Belknap Bridge Road covered bridge (Howe Bridge). Last year they partnered with White River Partnership but are unable to do that this year. Eliza Minnucci checked with the transfer station and we are able to accept them at the transfer station. The Conservation Commission has around \$1200 that they would be able to use to cover the cost of the tires. The Selectboard approves the use of the money to cover the cost of the tires at the transfer station. This will take place mid-September.

### **Grants Manager Discussion**

The cost for a grants manager is around \$50/hr which is an established person with all the skills. Hoyt suggests making the pay based on experience range. The person we are seeking will be able to manage the whole process and make sure that each person involved is looped into the grant process. Cilley, Hoyt and Field will meet to fine tune the job description and send it out.

### **Sawyer Hill Issue- Ingrid Pease & Dean Goulet**

Ingrid Pease- July 16th there was interaction with Dean Goulet on the ROW. Wanted Pease to agree to either throw up the road or upgrade it to the Class 3. Pease wanted to first go to the Selectboard. Goulet wants the road widened. Property owners who own the camp cannot get up during mud season. Goulet moved the camper that belonged to the Pease's because he believed it was in the ROW and that he had the right to do it. The Pease does not want the road widened, but would be fine with the holes being fixed. They also have previously put cattle up there and have put a gate up where the field ends. This is considered a pent road and Pease would like this on record that has been done previously. The Selectboard asks them to bring this to their attention again if they are planning on putting a gate up. Pease is requesting that the Town Crew grade the road so that people will stop parking in the hay field. Hoyt says he can get the road fixed in half a day. The Selectboard gives Hoyt permission to fix the road.

Dean Goulet- Has been improving the upper part of the road with some culverts and hard pack. When the land was listed they have since had issues with the camper being in the roadway because they are unable to move bigger equipment into there. Issue with the Peases not allowing people to park on their side of the road. The Selectboard states that they will have Rodney see if they can upgrade the road. O'Brien requests that once a year Goulet comes to the Selectboard and discusses what he is doing to the road. O'Brien also asks that they use the Selectboard as the middle man between the landowners.

### **ARPA- Sarah Wraight**

Michael Sacca- Will we be having a public meeting to discuss use of funds. Yes. Sacca was under the impression that the ARPA funds would be used for stuff we wouldn't have funds for originally.

Brenda Field- If we use half of it to pay for the Town Crew pay, the other half is more structured as to what we can spend it on. Wraight says yes, but if we use the money to free up money from our General Funds then we have no obligations to our money that is freed up.

Becky Hoyt- Is there any specific salaries? Is it salaries and benefits? Yes. Any town employee and salary and benefits for each paycheck through December 31, 2026. This doesn't trigger Federal Procurement Funds.

John O'Brien- If we pay the road crew salaries from the ARPA fund and now we have a surplus in Highway, would it be an issue to then move money from one fund to the next. Yes, you would need to follow your town procedures around this area.

Discussions of the list that the employees have come up with as necessities. Wraight says all the things on our list are fine as long as we do not take out a loan to pay for these projects.

Sarah Wraight said she is available to be the moderator for a town meeting if we decide to do this, but that it is not required. Wraight can make a handout as well if needed.

Michael Sacca- Has this list been published for the public to see? Field- not yet, this is a working list that started originally to be spent with COVID money and ARPA has since evolved. We want

to figure out what is needed and important for the town and then once we have all the amount done that we need then the remainder can be used with the public.

Sarah Wraight states that it can be overwhelming for all of the public input that is generated during meetings and that some towns are creating ARPA Taskforce.

Gary Mullen- If we put money towards the South Royalton Rescue can we do that right off the bat or is there a timeline? Becky Hoyt is concerned about handing money out before we decide on a list.

Brenda Field- If we use the salaries for one year, can we use it another year? Sarah says yes, we can use it all until December 31, 2026.

Dave Kimball- Looking to get a check within the next 6 months for the South Royalton Rescue new building project.

Sarah Wraight- If you are going to use the ARPA funds directly to pay for the pavilion then you need to follow the federal procurement guidelines.

John O'Brien- What is the annual amount for salaries and benefits for all town employees? Hoyt says last year the total was about \$470,000 but more than half of that was Highway.

A date was set for September 21, 2022 at 7pm.

### **Questions for Paul Gillies**

Mullen states he spoke to Gillies and he said it could take up to a year. It wont go to a juried court.

Johnathan Bicknell- The Trails Committee got together to discuss a proposal for Orchard Trail but found it hard to talk about because they were worried they were putting the town at risk and wondered if this required an executive session.

### **Liquor License Approval**

Tunbridge Store application. Signed by the Selectboard chair.

### **Other Business**

Little Free Library design and estimate will be coming in the next few meetings and placing it in front of the town offices.

Mariah Lawrence would like to use the Town Hall for 14 weeks once school starts to do an after school program. We will ask Mariah to attend the next meeting to discuss further.

Karen from Dog River Horse Club has a ride the week after the fair and wants to be able to use Falls Hill Legal Trail. They have permission from Cal Hemingway and the Angel Family to use their property once the trail ends. McPhetres states you can't have an organized event on the trail. O'Brien tells Mullen to respond that everything is on hold until we hear back on the declaratory judgment.

Tammy Mullen took the beagle to the vet to get its lump removed and they neutered it while they were there. There is now a nice beagle looking for a home!

The next Selectboard meeting has been moved to August 16th due to the Primary Election.

Warrants: Warrants were signed and approved.

Minutes were moved for approval to the next meeting.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

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Gary Mullen, Chair

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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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John O'Brien, Clerk