

## **TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING**

Tuesday August 16, 2022 6:00pm, Town Offices and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:07pm

Present: Mariah Cilley, Gary Mullen, Rebecca Hoyt, Rodney Hoyt, Brenda Field, Mike McPhetres, John O'Brien, Amy Frost, Laura Ginsburg, John Echeverria, Todd Tyson, Fred Pond, Maureen McCullough, Michael Sacca, 802-384-3937, Lynne Hadley

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

Getting trucks together to move sand. Would like the okay from the Selectboard to have Matt Loftus put in some culverts in. There are 11 that need to get done, but there are some that he might be able to put off if he runs out of material. This would cost around \$4000 to have Loftus do the work. Nortrak needs to come look at our backhoe. This should be under warranty. McPhetres makes a motion to hire Matt Loftus to put in culverts for a four days. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. Road signs were put up today. Mixture of 2 ¼ and 1 ¼ from Chelsea is what Hoyt is thinking he will want for next spring. Looking to get in 2000-2500 yards of material from McCullough's in Chelsea. McPhetres makes a motion to allow Hoyt to get material from McCulloughs. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

### **Planning Commission Seeking Approval- Laura Ginsburg**

Ginsburg tried to resign as chair, but the Planning Commission wouldn't let her. Amy Frost is now co-chair with Ginsburg. Trails Committee is more formalized now as a committee of the planning commission. George White joined the trails committee. There is now one open seat left on the trails committee. The PC has been meeting monthly with a number of guest speakers and have been having a lot of discussion time such as hazard mitigation, flood resiliency etc. The PC and the Trails Committee are not having any discussions about legal trials and will not until lawsuit is resolved or they get the blessing of the Selectboard. Ginsburg wants to note that there are other priorities and other things on the Planning Commission list for the ARPA funds as well.

The Planning Commission is seeking approval to apply for a grant Building Resilient Infrastructure and Community Grant- FEMA funds. This grant would allow for project scoping as well and will most likely be an October release to a December Application. 25% match requirement either in cash or time (Road Crew etc.) or the monetary match can be used from ARPA funds. 5% of the funds can be used to hire a grant manager at the town level. Flood and River issues and Emergency Access scoping project to understand what needs to happen to solidify the roadways. We can apply for a scoping list that would be less specific and can be used to figure out what projects we should make priority. The grant can be up to \$500,000 at the state level but if we get bumped out of that grant then we will be able to apply the national grant program. Selectboard is in favor of the Planning Commission to apply for this grant.

### **Sawyer Hill Check In**

John Pease called Mullen and discussed the camper on Sawyer Hill Road. Mullen measured it and it was about three feet off the road. There is a wide spot farther up that is available where it

could sit. Hoyt went up there with the road crew and fixed the road up and did some brush hogging. Mullen will call Clifford Pease to move the camper. Selectboard received a letter from an attorney requesting the Goulet's asking the Selectboard to talk to the Pease's and ask them to move the camper and allow people to temporarily park within the right-of-way if necessary to show the property until the road is improved. Cilley will respond to the letter received from the attorney responding with the fact that the road was improved and the proposed improvement from Dean Sall's is not authorized. Goulet is welcome to look at the road improvements and come back with another proposal if needed.

### **ARPA List Briefing- Brenda Field**

Field states that three years ago she started getting notices through her position as an Emergency Management Director stating that ARPA funds were coming and would be used for Pandemic use or hardening or improving our town for an emergency situation. All the town employees met at the fair grounds to discuss this list. It was stored at the Town Offices and we were told to wait and not use the funds because the parameters are broadening. Radios in the town trucks are terrible and the crew can just barely talk to each other but cannot talk to anyone else. A flood, wind shear, snow event or school event needs everyone to be able to talk to each other and right now we cannot. We need the town crew and the fire department on different channels. The town office needs a backup generator because we are the Towns Emergency Operations Center. We have two propane estimates (\$13,000 for both buildings) and an estimate for solar which was more expensive. Todd Tyson discusses that solar can be used for all the time not just for emergencies. The batteries can last for 2-3 days during an off grid event. The cost of the solar for the office was \$32,000 for the panel and batteries. The batteries last between 12 and 15 years. A new server for the office will be around \$12,000. It is a good idea to get the documents in the vault online as well. John O'Brien states that this had started as an emergency fund and he can see how it has evolved.

Michael Sacca presents a power point discussing state priorities for ARPA funds. Sacca believes that the Selectboard is not listening to what the residents want to spend the ARPA on because they are talking about ARPA funds prior the September meeting. Mullen states that this is just a working list coming up with items and price tag's prior to the meeting so we can all decide what we want and then how much is left over. Lynne Hadley offered her help to organize the ARPA working list and information for the townspeople so they can see this information prior to the September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 meeting. Sacca discusses his information he thinks that should also be on the table. Becky Hoyt lets the group know that the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting is a meeting made to start the conversation with the townspeople to let them throw ideas at the wall and see what sticks.

### **Town Hall After-School Program- Mariah Lawrence**

Postponed until another meeting.

### **Town Nurse Discussion**

Mullen spoke to the Health Officer Jodi Hoyt and she is interested in the town nurse position. We need to send out an advertisement

**Approve Tax Rate**

Tax rate is \$0.18 cents lower than last year. The town is about the same but the school budget is lower. The town rate is 0.7721. McPhetres makes a motion to approve the resident rate at 2.1794 and nonresident rate at \$2.254. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

**Transfer Station Grant Discussion**

Cilley will reach out to Mitch Taylor of Casella to see how much a 6yd container is. Cilley will work on signage for Janet Zug to make for the transfer station.

**School Water Paperwork- Signature Needed**

School water paperwork approved and signed.

**Other Business**

Liquor license was signed by all.

Scoping grant was signed and approved. TRORC will handle this project.

Jeff Masterson used to be the Road Foreman in Braintree and he is interested in the Grants Manager.

Todd Tyson discussing trails and whether the Selectboard would reconsider the trail usage of non-motorized use.

Maureen McCullough asks about speed survey for her road. Cilley will talk to TRORC to get a study set up.

**Approve Warrants**

Warrants were signed and approved.

**Approve Minutes**

Minutes postponed until next meeting.

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Gary Mullen, Chair

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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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John O'Brien, Clerk