

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE

Tuesday August 23, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

Present: Rodney Hoyt, Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, Mariah Cilley, John O'Brien, John Echeverria, Joe Paquin, Maureen McCullough

Road Report- Rodney Hoyt

Cilley reported hearing back from Vermont Land Trust regarding putting in a temporary road on Belknap Brook Road that would bypass on their property. We will wait until Thursday to hear if we have the green light to bypass into their property, but if not then we will have to shut the road down in order to get the bridge project done. Cilley will contact the houses on Belknap to let them know there is a possibility that the road will be closed. The one side that we are looking at bypassing the roadway is in the wetlands, but the other side of the road would cost too much money to bypass. Will wait and see what is said on Thursday. Hoyt also reported that he has five trucks hired for the 6th of September to truck sand. The total cost came about to \$8/yd. Ditching on Potash and on Button Hill, most all of the road on Button Hill got done today. Still waiting to get the ton truck back, it is getting painted and will hopefully be done soon. Hoyt asks for approval if the fair asks to use the grader. Selectboard said that is fine.

Tax Sale- Joe Paquin

Total delinquent taxes are back down to 94,000.00 One quarter of this is one property that has applied for state assistance. Paquin has reached out to a few lawyers about tax sales to see how other lawyers are doing it. Paquin is requesting Stitzel Page and Fletcher out of Burlington, VT to be our new attorney in tax sales. Tax payer pays an hourly fee up to a fee of 15% of the taxes due to the law firm. This is better for the taxpayer who is already in a hard spot. Paquin is asking for the Selectboard to sign a nonbinding agreement with the new firm. They do other small town's tax sales. O'Brien asks how tax sales work. Paquin discusses the process for a tax sale. Paquin is going to let people know in the next quarterly that there is financial assistance available that can help pay their delinquent taxes. Paquin will send over the agreement and the Selectboard will sign.

Class 4 Road Improvement Permit Draft

Selectboard reviews the draft Cilley created. The Selectboard is in favor of the draft. Cilley will send to a tax payer who is McPhetres makes a motion to adopt this Application for Improvement for Class 4 Roads and Trails. O'Brien seconds. All aye. John Echeverria asks what we will be doing about the trail maintenance regarding this permit during the lawsuit. Selectboard says nothing, it will just be a completed application for after the lawsuit. So moved.

Fuel Assistance Fund

John O'Brien spoke with Nancy Chapman who states that the church want to donate money to the Fuel Assistance Fund but are wondering if it is still a working fund. Ben Wolfe is the committee chair so O'Brien will get ahold of Ben to find out but would like to get this committee up and running.

Other Business:

Janet Zug will reach out next meeting with an estimate for sound proofing the Town Hall. She is still looking for another electrician to do the lighting. Zug also asked for us to look into a new dehumidifier as the old one is loud and old. Cilley will look into this.

Cilley will set up interviews for the grant candidates on Wednesday 9/7/22 at 7:30pm.

Hoyt will contact Rita Sito at TRORC to set up a speed survey on Gifford Hill.

Cilley will get a job description for Town Nurse and draft a job posting.

Cilley asks the Selectboard if she has their permission to keep her assistant Bonnie McCrillis on Monday and Wednesdays when she returns to work to keep the office open four days per week. Selectboard is on board.

Fred Pond was not at the meeting. Chair Mullen was emotionally shattered.

McPhetres will reach out to Steve Nonemacher to service the boilers at the Town Hall, Town Office and Town Garage.

Cilley will touch base with George White regarding the estimate for the town offices and town hall improvements.

Town Forest Pavilion will be up by the end of October. Shane Young is going to start sawing soon. Trails Committee are creating a trail in the town forest and will be putting up signage.

Approve Warrants:

All warrants were signed and approved.

Approve Minutes:

Minutes postponed until next meeting.

Mullen makes a motion to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk

