

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE

Tuesday February 28th, 2023 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:08pm

Present: Mariah Cilley, Brenda Field, Izzy Provoncha, Rebecca Hoyt, Michael McPhetres, Gary Mullen, Cal Heminway, Kay Jorgensen, Todd Tyson, Paul Harwood, Maureen Moriarity, Janet Zug, Maureen McCullough, Morrison, Aileen Lem, Rob Howe, Laura Ginsburg, Elizabeth Brown, Nate Stearns, Maryann Caron, Jonathan Bicknell, John Echeverria, Scott Beavers

Pre-Town Meeting

Fuel Assistance Fund: Jorgensen asks if the Fuel Assistance Fund is raised by taxes. Hoyt states that no it is not, it is donation based. Jorgensen hopes that someone will pick that fund back up and do something with it.

Library MasterCard Bill: Wondering how the library owes \$14,000 to MasterCard. Hoyt states how it is broken down and that we know where each item goes to.

Vital Statistics: Are the births all the births in the town or are they just the ones in Vermont? Cilley states that she only has access to Vermont records.

Fred Pond says that when the reports are read they should have someone on deck to expedite the process.

Janet Zug wonders if we have a wireless microphone for Town Meeting, Cilley says we have one available for the moderator but Zug will reach out to a few people to see who has one.

Rob Howe asks if we have any people interested in offices.

Mullen makes a motion to adjourn Pre-Town Meeting. McPhetres seconds. All aye. So moved.

Road Report

Rodney Hoyt is doing well and healing quickly. Thomas Hoyts truck lost the 4-wheel drive again. It needs to be towed back down to Freightliner with a wrecker. Chris Bump called Hoyt and said that the state has a 10-wheeler that we can use if we wanted. We have bridge grants for Kibling Hill. Hoyt is leaning towards Hooks because the bridge is cheaper than a box culvert. Hoyt is leaning towards having Smith's do the Button Hill ditching and stonework. Hoyt has been thinking about the Town Garage. Instead of building a new one he is wondering about putting an addition on the front side and come out far enough to put a bigger bathroom, an office and another truck. Hoyt is still worried about the Sap trucks going through Flint Bridge and wonders how much they weigh. Hoyt called Chris Bump about this who told Hoyt that a State Engineer had gone down and looked at Flint Bridge and the engineer will schedule an appointment to meet with the Selectboard to talk about what needs to get fixed. A question was asked by Morrison regarding bids and what the minimum amount to require a bid. Mullen states that if we can go with someone who can do the project from start to finish we can go with that one company and not have to get three bids. But we usually get three bids and choose from there.

Assistant Treasurer Discussion- Rebecca Hoyt

Hoyt states that last year from tax season until about now she was very busy and had gotten behind and finally caught up. Hoyt states that having someone come in for 8 hours a week would be super helpful to keep all the small details going. McPhetres makes a motion to hire an assistant treasurer to not exceed \$6000 for the fiscal year. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Legal Trail Usage Question- Karen Blow

Jonathan Bicknell spoke with Blow today. Blow stated that she had permission from a landowner and will want to confirm if she will be using the legal trail to access the private land. Blow asks permission to use the legal trail to walk her horses on during an event. The Selectboard states that they would get back to blow within the month. Tyson expresses that he is not in favor of letting an event on the trails during this time since we do not have any resolution on the trails as of now.

Other Business:

Nate Stearns states that he has talked with O'Brien a few times and is waiting for a reaction from the Selectboard to give an easement through Cal's property if we gave up the legal rights to the trail. O'Brien states that he finally was able to walk the trail the other day. He thinks there are a few different options which would include creating a pent road or if the town gave up legal rights to the trail the other option would be to get easements from the abutting landowners to continue the trail. Heminway states that he has put an offer on the table and he would like the Selectboard to either accept his offer or not. O'Brien says that in order for this to be a success for the town and to accept Heminway's offer we need to have other adjoining landowners buy in to the continuation of the trail. The Selectboard will plan on talking with Angell's and McPhetres' to see if someone will allow a connecting access and will get back to Heminway about a resolution by May 31, 2023.

Janet Zug- Seth Stoddard offered to let us rent the microphones from him for Town Meeting. Zug will get the microphones from Stoddard for the event. Zug will get an estimate together for the purchase of our own.

Maryann Caron- We received the 50/50 EOC Grant. This includes the generator, propane tank, electrical service upgrade in the basement and two base stations. The total grant award is \$30,000 and the 50% match is \$14,999. We are waiting on a Historic Preservation FEMA to approve the application and then once the ground thaws we can get going.

Working on a grant for weatherization of this building and the town hall. There will be a presentation during the March 14th Selectboard meeting. The MERP grant requires that we have had an audit looking at solar, EV charging and a few other pieces so we may need to get this done before the MERP grant opens so that we can apply.

Sidewalk Scoping Grant requires that we use Two Rivers as the project manager for this grant. The \$4500 that we will use to pay TRORC is included in the grant.

Flood Resilient Communities Fund will be used to purchase Putnams Meadow, 362 VT RTE 110. If we get this grant there is no match, it pays for everything.

Belknap Bridge Grant paperwork was sent in, and the money should be released soon.

Two Highway Grants due April 15th. The Firetruck Grant was also submitted.

Mullen received an email with a resource link for Division on Addictions and wants Cilley to look into it to see if it should be placed on the website.

Approve Warrants:

McPhetres makes a motion to let Mullen sign the orders. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. All warrants were signed and approved.

Approve Minutes:

Minutes from 3/22/22, 4/12/22, 4/26/22, 5/10/22, 7/26/22, 8/23/22, 8/16/22, 9/13/22, 9/27/22, 10/5/22, 10/11/22, 11/7/22, 11/22/22, 12/13/22 were approved.

McPhetres makes a motion to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk