

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 28, 2022 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

Present: Mariah Cilley, Mariah Lawrence, Mike McPhetres, John O'Brien, Todd Tyson, Gary Mullen, Maryann Caron, Rebecca Hoyt, Betsy Gaiser, Dave Kimball, Joe Paquin, Fred Pond, Maureen McCullough, Karen Blow, Billie Smith, Fern Strong, Bob Harnish, Norman Cohen, Jonathan Bicknell, John Echeverria, Brenda Field

Road Report via Mariah Cilley

The new truck is at Freightliner. The body will be put on at the end of the month. Looking to get it delivered around June 1st, 2023. Wight is concerned about the mud. He is bringing in extra material to the garage. Matt Loftus is helping him. We may need to hire extra trucks depending on how bad the mud gets.

Inclusion Initiative- Bob Harnish

As of March 6, 2023, 100 municipalities have adopted this initiative. This is to tell the world that Vermont welcomes all people. There is support for this initiative from VLCT and the Governor. Since Vermont is a 97-98% white population, we want to encourage diversity and let people looking to purchase property in the area know that this is an inclusive and welcoming place. Many towns that have adopted it have placed it in a frame in the office so people can walk in and see it. Todd Tyson asks if the website includes the names of all the towns. Harnish states that it does. John O'Brien asks what the Selectboard needs to do to adopt this? It would just need to have a motion made. The Selectboard will read over the initiative and will discuss it at the next meeting.

Appoint Tree Warden, Fence Viewers, Pound Keeper

Tree Warden: Rodney Hoyt or James Ludwig- will talk to both and decide next meeting. Fence Viewers: Gary Mullen, John Pease Jr., John O'Brien. Green Up Coordinator: Eliza Minnucci, Pound Keeper: Tammy Mullen. John O'Brien moves to appoint the above mentioned parties. McPhetres seconds. All aye. So moved.

Legal Trail Event Usage- Karen Blow Follow Up

O'Brien spoke to legislative council about who has authority on legal trails and what authority does the landowner have to give usage to outside parties. Can the town limit who has access or can the landowner invite people to go on it? The attorney said she would get back to O'Brien because it is a gray area between property rights and legal trail rights-of-way. John Echeverria informed Blow that he would love to have them use the snowmachine trail to ride their horses on. O'Brien states that he has plenty of trails they can use as well. Tyson asks what is the towns view on usage and maintenance for the upcoming trail season? Mullen- Everything will be run by legal council. Echeverria thinks the town should let the dust settle on the litigation and the legislation and settle the use of maintenance before letting people on the trails. Blow felt that it

was still murky whether she could use the trails or not but that she would keep working on trail reroutes.

ARPA Applications

Moved to the next meeting.

Todd Tyson- What was the objective of this agenda item? Mullen states that it was an informal rating. Caron states that we have pulled out Putnams Meadow, Town Garage, First Branch River Access, Agritourism, Solar at OCPCC, Spur Trail from the Parking Lot out of the application pile. There are ten current applications. We have a total of \$473,151.00 in applications with only \$277,8500.00 available.

Caron updates on grants. The MERP grant we won't know if we get until 2024. Likelihood of MERP? Based on the algorithm we are a very low need town. Both highway grants have been sent in for the Flint Bridge update and paving on Strafford Road. We have not applied for the MERP Mini-grant.

Library Update – Mariah Lawrence

Lawrence would like the wording updated in the Noise Ordinance to state that regular noise during regular hours at the library is exempt from this. Currently the Afterschool Program for middle schoolers is in full swing. They have 20 kids attending and one of the programs is utilizing the Town Hall for a cooking class. Lawrence received a CLIF grant for a parenting reference section at the school. The author of Blueberry Pancakes is coming May 3rd. Looking to hire someone for the summer reading program. O'Brien asks what exterior work we are planning on doing to the library. Lawrence states that she has a bid from Todd Tyson for trim painting. Will bring it next meeting.

Tax Sales- Joe Paquin

Tax sales are a harder process now with the VHAP (tax relief program from COVID). It is good for the taxpayers but we need to make sure that they are not in the process of applying for the relief program before we put their property up for tax sale. All but five on the delinquent tax list are doing some sort of payment plan for their property. The new lawyer will send a demand letter with a small fee of up to 15% which is more fair. Looking at late May to early June for the tax sales.

Audit Approval & Treasurer Business- Rebecca Hoyt

The audit suggested policies and procedures manual. Hoyt will have this done by the end of June. They recommend biweekly payroll, fraud policy, TPF in general ledger, cash receipts modual from NEMRC and a cash register. Hoyt will have a draft policy to sign for next meeting. Hoyt has a new credit card company that should be getting put up on the website soon. Hoyt asks the Selectboard to sign for Health Officer/Town Nurse Jodi Hoyt's nursing license renewal. This is a reimbursement and is covered by her grant. McPhetres motions to renew J. Hoyt's license. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Ruben Hook dropped off his bid for Kibling Hill Road. He would like the first bill paid for purchasing the steel. The total needed to get started is \$47,844.00. The total bid for the bridge is

\$239,220.00. O'Brien makes a motion to accept the bridge bid. McPhetres seconds. All aye. So moved. O'Brien makes a motion to pay the first bill to purchase the steel. McPhetres seconds. All aye. So moved.

Other Business:

Dave Kimball is asking for letters of community support for the new South Royalton Rescue building. He will send a template to Cilley.

Bonnie McCrillis has asked for hardpack to be put at the beginning of the transfer station road.

Warrants: Warrants were signed and approved by Chair Mullen.

Minutes from January 10th, 2023- March 14th, 2023 were approved.

O'Brien motions to adjourn. McPhetres seconds. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk