

## **TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE**

Tuesday July 25th, 2023 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:06pm

Present: Mariah Cilley, John O'Brien, Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, Jonathan Bicknell, Rudi Ruddell, Fred Pond, James McGuire, George White, Sue Salster, Maureen McCullough, John Echeverria, Brenda Field, Maryann Caron, Rodney Hoyt, Ryan Palmer, George Contois, Elizabeth Brown, Simon Bradford, Fern Strong, Becky Hoyt, Betty Brown,

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

Hoyt and the road crew have finished up some grant work for a Better Back Roads grant. There is a lot of debris down from a windstorm that a log truck would help. They are looking into getting a chipper. We are putting a bid out to get Strafford Road and Hanson Road fixed. Still waiting on the engineer Shawn Kelly from the State to give us information on how we need to fix Strafford Road. The bridge between Hoyt Hill Road and Tuttle Road is starting to weaken, but there has been no guidance yet regarding the bridge. Maryann Caron, Mariah Cilley, Becky Hoyt, and Brenda Field are all working together for FEMA documentation. Larry's truck is being built.

The Selectboard would like the minutes to reflect how much they appreciate the Fire Department and the Road Crew.

Simon Bradford states that better portable radios are needed for the road crew. He would also like a 24 hour notice on road closures if available.

McPhetres makes a motion to purchase a new Freightliner for \$285,644.00. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

### **Transfer Station Attendant Interview**

The applicant did not show up for the interview.

### **Windsor County & Orange County Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff Palmer and Sheriff Contois join us. Contois discusses his background and department. Orange County only has five people and most days 2-3 of those people have to be in the courthouse. He is trying to keep one deputy on each side of RTE 110. Contois states that \$10,000 only gets 3.5 hours of time a week. McPhetres asks how long it will take to get someone to town if there was a call? Contois said it depends on where that person is. Contois states that they depend on the town contracts for surviving and that they are trying to get more people on the force and pay them a living wage. Sheriff Palmer discusses payment and funding of Sheriff departments and how they receive payments. Palmer discusses reactive policing and rural policing. Palmer states that they would need between \$20,000-30,000 to make it work for regional policing. No contractual decisions were made this meeting.

### **Legal Trails Discussion- Jonathan Bicknell**

The Trails Committee has appointed the following Trails Stewards: Rudi Ruddell and Thorton

Hayslett to Baptist Trail and Orchard Trail; Susan Salster to Falls Hill; Jonathan Bicknell to Crossroads. The Trails Committee gives forth a Memorandum of Understanding with the trail steward duties. Bicknell states that the 2021 Trail Recommendations are still relevant. He asks permission to start a plan for each trail, hang signage and for permission to clear the trail as needed. McPhetres makes a motion to allow the Trails Committee to formulate plans, create signage and ask landowners for permission to clear trails. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. McPhetres makes a motion to accept and sign the Trails Committee Memorandum of Understanding for Trails Stewards. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Trail Reroute on Orchard Trail: This will be another trail reroute that goes above the trail and not below. A similar Memorandum of Understanding would be put in place if we accepted the trail reroute. George White states that he only was able to look at the trail this evening. He believes that the idea of rerouting trails to accommodate landowners and bikes is a thing to pursue. He is not prepared to offer anything tonight except to state that he didn't think the new reroute is suitable for bikes. O'Brien states that the stewards should be involved in reroutes. Andy \_\_\_\_\_, the VAST president states that he is very nervous and anxious for this to be resolved if the reroute isn't completed so that he knows if he needs to create a new trail or not before the snow flies.

#### **Surplus Amounts- Becky Hoyt**

The surplus amount that is not designated for ARPA is \$93,714.73. Hoyt would like to move this to the disaster fund. McPhetres makes a motion to move the surplus of \$93,714.73 to the emergency disaster fund. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. The tax rate will be signed at the next meeting.

#### **Grants Manager Update- Maryann Caron**

The sidewalk scoping engineer, Class 2 structures grant (Strafford Road Slide), the Better Back Roads Grants, all need signatures. The MERP grant is open and Caron is wondering what building we should apply for. We have allocated \$54,000 for the basement and attic insulation at the Town Hall out of ARPA funds. The Selectboard would like to go forward with the MERP scoping for the Town Hall and the Town Offices.

#### **Liquor License Approvals**

McPhetres makes a motion to approve the liquor licenses. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

#### **Other Business**

McPhetres makes a motion to have the front of the Town Offices pressure washed a second time before winter for \$280. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Cilley will write a letter to Blakemans Towing about right of way encroachment on Howe Lane and check on the state right of way on 110.

The next Selectboard meeting is moved to Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

#### **Approve Warrants:**

All warrants signed and approved.

**Approve Minutes:**

Minutes from July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 were signed and approved.

McPhetres makes a motion to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

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Gary Mullen, Chair

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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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John O'Brien, Clerk