

## **TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE**

Tuesday October 24th, 2023 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

Present: Mariah Cilley, Simon Bradford, Ruben Hook, Rodney Hoyt, Liz Williams, Gary Mullen, Michael McPhetres, Amos Post, Susan Salster, Elizabeth Brown, Assistant Fire Chief Young, John O'Brien, Todd Tyson, John Echeverria, Brenda Field, Ryck Morales, Ashton Danneels, Christina \_\_\_\_\_, Amy Frost, Janet Zug, Deb Mullen, Daniel "Rudi" Ruddell

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

The Road Crew is buttoning up for winter. George Elderd should have the culverts finished up soon. The culvert on Foundry Road could be harder since there is ledge that needs to be chiseled. Contech called today to make sure that they knew by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November if they needed to hold off a few days for delivering the prefabricated bridge for Strafford Road, but if not then they plan on being there on November 6<sup>th</sup> for installation. The sand pile is almost half complete. The new truck should be here tomorrow. Matt Loftus is working on getting the material on the upper side of the bridge so that it doesn't have to be trucked back around when the road is torn apart. The Road Crew has done a little grading and Hoyt feels that it is smoother now and that the grading will hold. Strafford Road second travel lane adjustment should be finished in the next few days. Loftus will put material in a hole up there to make it safer.

Ruben Hook is asking the Selectboard for permission to close Kibling Hill Road 11/13 (Monday) and 11/14 (Tuesday) to move fill and material to finalize the bridge. Hoyt wants to make sure Hook knows that the road crew won't be able to help do any of this work since we will be working on Strafford Road. Cilley will reach out to the people up above to the road closure to make sure they are aware of the road closure. The Selectboard come to a unanimous decision to approve the road closure.

### **Police Contract Approval**

The Selectboard discusses the police contract with the Royalton Police Department. McPhetres talked with Robert Childs about the four town policing and found out that Chelsea and Strafford will discuss it at town meeting and that Vershire hasn't had any policing for ten years and is not interested. McPhetres makes a motion to sign the intermunicipal police contract with Royalton Police Department as budget allows to end on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

### **VLS Student Project- Ashton & Christina**

Working on a fellowship project focusing on flooding. They are mostly focusing on culverts and storm water management. They are working with White River Partnership and are hoping to fill the gaps on information needed. Cilley will reach out to schedule another date.

### **Legal Trail vs. Class 4 Roadway**

Cilley will ask Jonathan Bicknell to host a public feedback session at the trails committee level to get more information regarding turning a legal trail into a Class 4 roadway. John Echeverria states that although Tarrant did lay out the general information, that there was more to it

regarding necessity and eminent domain where compensation is due. Echeverria states that the cost of this would be very high because their value comes from being the end of the road. Echeverria states that he is very opposed to having vehicles on the trails and that it is unfair and comes at a surprise to think that the town would put a highway through the property. He would like to put the litigation on hold and stop the clock to go ahead and find a happy medium for all. Echeverria believes we are very close to a resolution. Mullen states that he likes the last idea of the trail on the east. Echeverria said that one is off the table, but now there is a trail on the west that is on the table. Tyson states that the western trail is taken off the table by everyone who has discussed the trail except the landowner. Ruddell states that he would never recommend the western trail. Field states that as a taxpayer she wonders who will ever pay for the new trail and that this is causing a lot of hard feelings. Mullen asks Echeverria to go ahead and build the trail and then we will see if it works out. Echeverria states that it isn't a long project that it could be done in a matter of months. Mullen: We have a legal right of way now, and with having a legal right of way we have the right to maintain it, which is why we are staying steadfast at maintaining it.

### **Other Business**

Ryck Morales from the US Small Business Administration came to give a brief overview for the assistance that is still available for those who have been affected by the flooding.

Amos Post and Todd Tyson discuss the solar array at the Town Garage. Tyson, Hoyt, O'Brien and Post met at the town garage to look at the proposed project. Post has given an updated quote to Tyson. The big change is that the system originally was going at the town office but now it is going to the town garage. There is a large 380ft span where wire will have to be run which includes a large portion of that increased cost. Hoyt mentioned the idea of the town doing the trenching which would save the town the cost. Tyson wants to be mindful of what needs to be done if we were to ever increase the size of the solar panel. The conduit would need to be increased in size and this bigger conduit will be included in the updated price quote. Tyson: we have an offer from Peter Hayden a number of used panels if the panels pass inspection from Post. Our current quote is for 4.5kW at \$18,828. These funds are ARPA funds that have already been allocated, so the Selectboard asks Post and Tyson to forge ahead. O'Brien asks if there is going to be a phase 2 plan to let the Selectboard know for budgeting.

Simon Bradford and \_\_\_\_\_ Young from the Tunbridge Fire Department are requesting help financing part of a new fire truck. They have around \$300,000 set aside from the town and they have some from their truck fund set aside. They are asking the town for \$325,000 in funding to help. Bradford is wondering if it needs to be voted on at Town Meeting since it is a note that would be taken out. Treasurer Hoyt suggested VLCT would have a better idea on when we had to bond. O'Brien suggests asking the Grants Manager Maryann Caron if there would be a match available to fund a fire truck. The Selectboard gives permission for Bradford to reach out to Caron and see if there are grants available. If there are not, we will place this as an item on the Town Meeting Warning.

Selectboard approves continuing on with the Sidewalk Scoping project since the money will continue after Thanksgiving.

The Selectboard reads a letter regarding transfer station help from Peter White.

Cilley brings up an issue of drinking at the ballfield. The Selectboard asks Cilley to bring Kathy Galluzzo in for the next meeting.

Deb Mullen wanted to sing praises for Maryann Caron and how good she is doing as our Grants Manager.

**Approve Warrants:**

All warrants signed and approved.

**Approve Minutes:**

Minutes from 10/10/23 were signed and approved.

McPhetres makes a motion to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. Meeting ceased.

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Gary Mullen, Chair

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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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John O'Brien, Clerk