

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE

Tuesday November 14th, 2023 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:13pm

Present: Mariah Cilley, Rodney Hoyt, Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Kathy Galluzzo, Janet Zug, Liz Williams, Brenda, Maryann Caron, Mariah Lawrence, Fred Pond, Dave Kimball, Bob Sponable, John Durkee, Israel Provoncha

Road Report-Rodney Hoyt

Hoyt recaps his hunting trip to Kentucky. Kibling Hill bridge is open. Still a long way from finished but it is useable. Hooks has been trying to get the guardrails but has been unable to get them. They have lined the bridge with jersey barriers for the winter. Matt Loftus is doing a great job on his project on Strafford Road. If we had the full three weeks of the road closed then we would have had time to blacktop, but at this point because we have to open up so that we aren't closed at the same time as Route 110. Thomas Hoyt is out for the next few weeks due to a surgical procedure. Thomas Braley and Matt Loftus are available as drivers if we need them. A new switch was picked up for Larry Wight's new truck and will be put in the new truck and then will mail the old switch back. Hoyt is hoping that the Strafford Road will be open Thursday evening. Sand pile almost all here; only 1800 yards left to get. The culverts on Foundry Road, Potash Road and Drew Road are all done. Maryann Caron asks if there is an estimate on the guardrails because that is going to delay funding. Hoyt will double check with Hooks. Maryann will determine if the 20% that the town needs to pay will be covered if we pay the guardrails out of pocket instead of running it through the grant. The Selectboard praises Matt Loftus, his crew, the road crew, Brenda Field, Simon Bradford, the First Branch Ambulance Service and South Royalton Rescue and Nancy Howe and Elaine Howe for bringing dinner to the workers and a thank you for all the hard work and getting the Strafford Road done ahead of schedule.

Recreation Report- Kathy Galluzzo

Finishing up final softball tournament this weekend. This tournament is supporting the Food Shelf. About 40 people are utilizing the food shelf now. Next month the recreation department will go back to doing the rec breakfasts. Galluzzo has a bid coming in for lighting on the field. She is waiting for a call back from the representative for the playground. They have more tires ordered to be delivered next spring for under the swing-set. Eustis Cable will donate the poles for the lights. Next spring there will be sand delivered for the volleyball court. Galluzzo was aware of the alcohol issue with the mixed drinks and has already brought it up to the particular people. Because it is a public space, bring your own alcohol is allowed. The ice rink will be set up soon.

Library Report- Director Mariah Lawrence

Library has been very busy and has been awesome. Patron visits has been increasing along with the afterschool program numbers. Goals Lawrence has for the library are to create a space that kids feel welcome in their community and create a new quiet space. A few big things that are hopefully in the process of happening are the Libraries Transforming Communities Grant which will help with a quiet space, furniture, mental health resource center, assistive reading devices and collection development. The other big thing is the Paul Bruhn Grant which is a historic

preservation grant (federal money) which would help us redo the upstairs of the library and make more space available to us (quiet space, meeting space, study space and more areas to curl up read, write and create). Lawrence got a very rough quote for updating the space and it was around \$80,000. What does Lawrence need from the Selectboard? To be aware that the preservation would hold an easement on the building to maintain its historic status. The Selectboard is on board with Lawrence moving forward and applying for the grant. McPhetres asks if there would need to be heat up there. Lawrence says that yes there would need to be, but that a contractor told her insulation would really help and that mini-splits might be enough to heat and cool that area. The Selectboard says “Full Steam Ahead!”

Grants Update- Maryann Caron

Caron has submitted the Button Hill Phase 2 Grant. EOC Grant has been finalized and submitted. This reimbursement will only be \$11,200 instead of the original \$12,000 we thought we were getting. This project came in under budget about \$3000 which can go back into the ARPA funds. We have not started either of the large projects for ARPA: the weatherization projects of the Town Hall and the Town Offices. We applied and received the MERP Grant assessments for the Town Offices and Town Hall which will give us a much better understanding of what needs to get done to the buildings and then will allow us to apply for the MERP grant. Cilley gave an update regarding the Sidewalk Scoping Grant: this has been paused due to funding issues. Caron states that we have been awarded a contract for Trail Update from the ANR and we have not received a signed contract from this group.

Upcoming: Whitney Hill reimbursement once Treasurer Hoyt comes back. Kibling Hill project is ready to submit for reimbursement, but this will hinge on guardrails getting put in.

FEMA: Submitted our damages inventory. Five roads left to complete, if the blacktop on Howe Lane is complete then we are down to finishing the work on Strafford Road and Whitney Hill Road. Estimate for FEMA projects is around \$515,000. Starting next week Caron will start the paperwork to submit for reimbursement on the finished roads, but has been told the reimbursement takes a “long time.”

O’Brien asks if Chief Simon Bradford has reached out to help look for grants for fire truck purchases. There is one grant Caron had applied for previously which we did not get, but we will reapply for it next go around.

South Royalton Rescue Update- Dave Kimball

Dave Kimball, Bob Sponable and John Durkee update on the South Royalton Rescue. They are about 45% in their fundraising goal for the new building. The issue that the South Royalton Rescue is facing is staffing. They are working with White River Valley Ambulance and First Branch Ambulance to help each other with staffing issues. There are only four ambulances for 15 towns. South Royalton Rescue polled their staff to see what was important: more pay, benefits, staff retention and a new building. The board is looking for an increase in their budget from \$65.00 to \$67.13 per capita. In six years they have gone up 7.2%. WRVA is at \$72.00. Hartford is at \$100. Hourly rate that the EMT’s are getting is competitive with the other ambulance services in the area. This increase will include vacation pay, health insurance and retirement.

250th Town Resolutions- Izzy Provoncha

250th Commission to commemorate the Revolution who are asking the towns to create a 250th committee to create a resolution. The historical society will be putting on events to commemorate these different historical events. Provoncha would like to get more historical markers put in place to commemorate these historical events.

McPhetres makes a motion to sign the VT 250th Anniversary Resolution. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Integrity Solar Contract Signing & Deposit Approval

Cilley will ask for clarification on the contract. The contract was signed and approved with a \$1000 deposit being sent in.

Other Business

Road salt quote at \$86.50 per ton, with an estimate of 250 tons being used which would total \$21,625. Mullen signs the salt quote.

Brocklebank Craft Brewing is requesting a liquor license for December 9th, 2023 at their taproom. The liquor license request is approved.

Janet Larkin is interested in leaving her property to the town when she passes away. The Selectboard will meet further to discuss this opportunity.

Approve Warrants:

All warrants were signed and approved.

Approve Minutes:

Minutes from 10/24/23 were signed and approved.

McPhetres makes a motion to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk