

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE

Tuesday March 12th, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:06pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Mariah Cilley, John O'Brien, Gary Mullen, Rodney Hoyt, Dave Kimball, Aileen Lem, Brenda Field, Liz Williams, Fern Strong, Fred Pond, Lori Berger, Anissa Morrison

Road Report- Rodney Hoyt

Hoyt says it's muddy. Plowing on top of the mud was "close to a disaster." Thomas Hoyt went over near Kelsey Mountain Road with the grader. Dairy Hill didn't get plowed (it is plowed by South Royalton). Grader went up to Dairy Hill to fix it this morning when it was frozen. Ton truck broke down- a stone got into the wheel between the rim and the caliper and it lost the brakes. Thomas Hoyt's truck was also broken from a stick that poked a hole and was leaking fluid. The valley is running out of material for fixing muddy roads. McCullough's Crushing has only one load left and all the towns in the area are trying to get it. Hoping mud season can get done soon. The milk trucks are making it, but they are slow going and digging up the roads. The roads are currently posted to logging trucks etc., but it doesn't account for fuel trucks, milk trucks, grain trucks, sap trucks etc. McPhetres tells Hoyt to call up Lebanon to see if they have any material that they can use during the remaining mud season. Rick Barnaby spoke to the Selectboard during Town Meeting and said we were wasting money and material on the roads right now because what we are putting down right now for material washes right back off and turns to mud. Hoyt tells the Selectboard again, that one day we need to get more serious about getting a rock pile of our own.

Selectboard Chair, Vice Chair & Secretary Appointment

McPhetres makes a motion to stay in their appointed position. O'Brien would like to be the Clerk and not the Secretary. O'Brien seconds. All aye. Moved.

The Selectboard appoints Eliza Minnucci as Green Up Day Coordinator.

Cilley will check with other towns to see if they still have constables or not.

Town Meeting Recap

O'Brien asks if we can work on a policy regarding appropriations. Mullen wants to make sure that we are all on the same page in regard to making sure the budget numbers and the meeting warning and making sure we are more concise

Lori Berger raised concerns about Peter Klink's paperwork regarding his handout stating that she believes we need to have a different table for community handouts, and that anything not endorsed by the town should not be on the official check in table.

Victoria Paquin sent an email regarding Article 12 and the Selectboard moving the surplus this coming year. She feels that we should have a Fund Balance Policy and send examples of a policy. McPhetres is wondering if our Emergency Fund would be considered the same thing.

Declaration of Inclusion Adoption

McPhetres makes a motion to accept the Declaration of Inclusion. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Emergency Services Committee Info- Brenda Field & Dave Kimball

Dave Kimball and Brenda Field would like to add Robert Childs and Anissa Morrison to the Emergency Services Committee. This will make their committee complete. McPhetres makes a motion to add Anissa Morrison and Robert Childs to the Emergency Services Committee. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. The Committee will be meeting with Sheriff Palmer in Windsor and Chief Stalnaker in Royalton to be asking some more questions and then will come back with a recommendation in the next few weeks. Orange County Sheriff's Department is a few years away from rebuilding their department. Mullen wants the Committee to ask their candidates how flexible are they, if the Selectboard feels that there are other items that needs to be addressed, will they do it?

Phones Quote

Cilley shows a quote from Key Communications for a new phone system. McPhetres makes a motion to go with Key Communications for the new phone system. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

MRGP Annual Report Approval

McPhetres makes a motion to sign the MRGP Annual Report form for 2024. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Other Business:

Legal Trails: Orchard Trail- do we wait for the Supreme Court to get back to us before we make a decision on what to do, or do we go ahead and allow the Trail Steward to decide the fate of the trail. Cal Heminway- what do we do about the Legal Trail on this parcel? Need to discuss at the next meeting.

Cilley discusses four liquor licenses for approval. Mullen asks the Administrative Assistant to approve the licenses.

Approve Warrants:

All warrants were signed and approved.

Approve Minutes:

Minutes from February 27th, 2024 and Town Meeting March 5th, 2024 were approved.

McPhetres makes a motion to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk