

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE

Tuesday March 26th, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Mariah Cilley, John O'Brien, Gary Mullen, Susan Salster, Liz Williams, Baxter Doty, Roger _____, Brenda Field, Rudi Ruddell, John Echeverria, Doug Giles, Rick Barnaby, Todd Tyson

Road Report- Rodney Hoyt via Mike McPhetres

Larry Wight has COVID and is very sick. Hoyt spent all day with Wight on Friday and doesn't want to get us sick if he is. Wight tipped his truck over in a ditch, but didn't do much damage besides bend a tie rod. All the crew got stuck somewhere during this last snow storm because there was mud underneath. Cilley gives the Selectboard a quote from Pike for stone. It is by the ton, not the yard, so if you figure out by the yard, it doesn't look like as good of a deal as it is. This stone is harder and state inspected, so although it might be more expensive, it is better stone. All the vehicles are working and on the road.

Reappraisal- Rudi Ruddell

Spoke with our District Advisor for Lister's who stated that the next step will be to put together an Request for Proposal . Our order to reappraise will come in June or July since we have passed the threshold. Phyllis Hayward from Chelsea reached out to coordinate with them. The Lister's are not going to be able to do it on their own. Outside appraisal firms like to deal with 5000 parcels and up and we have less than 1000. The recommendation is to pool with other towns which is where Hayward comes in. Hayward has also reached out to Vershire and Fairlee. Vershire and Fairlee have already contracted with an outside contractor. The next logical step is to put together a RFP to being to have the conversation with firms. The Towns current reappraisal fund is \$149,500. NEMRC does reappraisals, and they are around \$130 per parcels. Ruddell is feeling that with two new Listers and only three of them, this is a large undertaking for the three of them and they feel they need to reach out for more outside help. Some of that money could also be used for hiring another Lister to help (Helen O'Donnell if she would be willing). NEMRC is booking out to 2029. Over half of Vermont needs to be reappraised. Our last reappraisal was in 2010. The legislature is looking at a mandated six year reappraisal cycle. The good news is that the reappraisal fund is in reasonable shape. Ruddell is unsure how much we can do in house, but as of right now the funding that we have put away is okay.

Cemetery Fence- Baxter Doty

Doty and the Cemetery Commissioners would like to replace the iron fence around the Village Cemetery. Doty knows that it is not a Cemetery Commissioner issue because it is actually the Hoyt Memorial Park that would be responsible for the cost of the fence. Doty got two different quotes from Springfield Fence Company for iron all the way around, and for half iron half chain link fence. The cost per foot for chain link is \$35.53 and the cost for iron is \$68.51. The Selectboard has asked Doty to get other quotes from a few other fence companies. Annie Laber had left money for perpetual care of the Village Cemetery. Mullen asks if the plan is to replace it this year. Doty states that it is up to the Selectboard and the Cemetery Commissioners to decide

when they want to spend the money. The Selectboard will walk it once the snow melts to see what it looks like.

Two Rivers-Outtaquechee Regional Commission MTAP- Sydney Steinle

Municipal Technical Assistance Program: MTAP started just about a year ago and the point of the program was to try to provide technical assistance so grant writing, project development, what grants might fit to help with projects. O'Brien asks if it makes a difference that we have a grant manager and Steinle states that it does not. Housing, Water, Wastewater, Business Support and Workforce Development, Climate Change Mitigation Resilience and a "catch all" category. Field asks Steinle about landslides and Strafford Road as well as the BRIC grant. Ruddell asks how the role between Two Rivers and the Grants Administrator would work together. O'Brien asks if we already have a project going would for solar would we be able to use MTAP for a project that we already have started? Steinle will look into it. This MTAP will run until April 2025. A fully developed and ready to sign statement of work agreement, funding and scope of work by April 30th. Todd Tyson asks if trail maintenance would fall under a VOREC grant. Steinle states that it won't. Cilley will get together with Brenda Field, Rudi Ruddell, Amy Frost and Maryann Caron and loop them in with Steinle to meet the April 30th deadline.

TRORC Advisory Committee Representative Appointment

McPhetres makes a motion to leave Michael Sacca as the TAC representative. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Other Business:

John Echeverria asks to speak regarding legal trails because he will be in Italy next meeting. Echeverria's position is that while the litigation is moving forward we should maintain the status quo. The Supreme Court date has not been decided yet but at this point it will be May or June. The current Orchard Trail is full of blow downs, sticks, trees etc. Echeverria states that if and when we win the suit then the town can do maintenance but until then he thinks opening the trail would have people finding other ways around the trail or doing their own maintenance. Echeverria also states that the Selectboard had talked about the stewards coming in for the next meeting and letting them decide what they want to do on the trails. There were many items that the Planning Commission put together for the Selectboard that needed to be decided and none of them have been resolved yet. He believes there's a process that needs to be completed before we allow the bikes on the trail and that by opening just the Orchard Trail that would be singling him out and that is unlawful. Tyson states that the trails should not be open until the snow is gone and the mud is dried up but that our attorney has stated we have a right to use the trails as wanted and we can perform maintenance as well.

Rick Barnaby asks what we are going to do about the roads and the mud. Barnaby states that putting rocks on the top of the road and grading it isn't cutting it. There are rocks in his yard he has to pick up before he mows and he has cut a tire on his vehicle. Barnaby asks how much we charge per vehicle and if we were to do the math out on the cost per material plus how much it costs to use the material on the roads, then paving would probably save us money in the long run. Barnaby also wants to know how much we pay per hour for contracted services and thinks it should be listed in the Town Report. Barnaby brings up a grievance about the brush cutter

coming up through and hitting his maple tree and his lilacs. Mullen states that it is in the right of way and it is clipped because it's in the ROW, and when he planted the trees they should have been planted ten feet back. Barnaby states that he put them where he did to keep the road where it belongs. Barnaby thinks that the grader purposefully came through and hit his yard and dug up the grass by two feet.

Doug Giles is part of the Emergency Services Committee now.

Approve Warrants:

All warrants were signed and approved.

Approve Minutes:

Minutes from March 12th, 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