

Selectboard Minutes

April 27, 2020

Meeting held virtually through a video conference

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Tom Tolbert, Paul Fraser and Jessica Pollack.

Public Present: Christopher Robbins, Lou Brusco, Terri Garland, Sara Wiswall and Rich Melanson (BCTV)

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Call for any late additions to the agenda.

There were no late additions.

Approve the minutes from the April 13th Selectboard meeting.

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Paul. All in favor.

Approve time sheets for: town office, listers, highway, and transfer station.

Terri posted them on the google drive.

Bottle deposits have not happened the last two times because one delivery was on town meeting day. The next delivery we were asked to leave the bottles outside because of covid-19 and we did not.

Greg will go into the office and sign off on the timesheets.

Approve Selectboard orders.

Greg will sign off on the orders tomorrow.

Updates and discussion regarding COVID-19.

There have not been any calls to Neighborhood Connections for help.

A lot of people stepped up to volunteer and as of now, there has not been a lot of need for it.

There have had two appointments in the office so far. Everyone is social distancing, wearing masks and washing their hands.

Update on Town Finances.

The town is in a good situation because most of the taxes were collected in the fall. We have not had any unforeseen expenses yet.

The projection sheet Terri put up today did not include the pay orders for today.

The Pikes Falls part of the RFP is a paving grant from the state.

A discussion was had on tax collecting. The only way to take away taxes is through the board of abatement, but this can only be local/town taxes. School taxes cannot be abated.

The listers do have an extension on the abstract but they plan on filing the abstract in July. They will also hold grievance as normal.

Updates on RFQs including road paving, trash hauling and mowing.

The cemetery mowing bid is just for the cemeteries and not the other land that the town owns. The town does not own the Rawson monument. Last year the town had agreed to maintain it because they assumed it was owned by the town, but it is not.

Road paving, what would the proposal be for scheduling? If one of the criteria is how long it will take, then it should be included in the RFQ. Jessica would like this added. In the bid for paving, it asks for a completion date of September 30.

The RFQ on trash hauling and recycling schedule is tight. Greg would like to try and extend our Casella contract for another month. Jessica and Paul agree. Greg will contact Casella to see about extending the contract.

Technology related updates including Town website and internet router

There have been a couple of technology issues in the past couple of weeks. A week ago, the website was hacked. There was a redirect link put on the website. We had to purchase a security product that went in and cleaned it up. Tom updated the website to the latest version of WordPress; it is updated and secure. For \$36 a year, there is a backup program for the website that would ensure that no data is lost.

The router at the town office failed. We have purchased a new one. Tom recommended getting a multiple access router that would be around \$450. It would be more secure and you would know who was accessing the network.

Paul made a motion to authorize Tom to purchase the appropriate hardware to upgrade our system. Seconded by Jessica, all in favor.

Tom is going to wipe the old office computer and upgrade it to windows 10 and will do the same with Micah's computer.

We upgraded our internet service to the 50 mbs service which will cost \$54.95 a month.

Adoption of Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)

There was a two-week period to solicit comments. There have been none.

Someone who has taken the ICS course must sign the document.

Tom made a motion to accept the Local Emergency Management Plan. Seconded by Andy, all in favor.

Update on Communication Union District (CUD)

The survey results came back on the broadband project. There was enough response to move forward and create a business plan to get broadband to underserved and unserved areas.

They would like to create a CUD for our community.

Windham Regional sent three questions to Chris Robbins, our representative on the project.

Jessica made a motion to send out the communication that was sent to the board and send it back to Windham Regional. Seconded by Tom, all in favor.

There was an issue on what statute protects the town from owing anything and it is in the Vermont Statutes Title 30 chapter 82.

Update on School District Budget Vote, June 10, 2020

Absentee ballots are available now. If you already voted absentee, you would need to vote again. The old ballots are not valid.

Paul made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted at Sara Wiswall