

Selectboard Minutes
October 12, 2020

Meeting held virtually through a video conference *

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans (chair), Tom Tolbert, Paul Fraser and Jessica Pollack

Public Present: Rich Melanson (BCTV), John Sohikian, Bob Stomski, Christopher Robbins, Lou Brusco and Joel Bluming

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. *Call for any late additions to the agenda*

No late additions.

2. *Approve the minutes from the August 6 and September 28, Selectboard meetings*

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes from August 6th as written, seconded by Jessica. The banner was created by a nonprofit organization in the state of Vermont. All in favor.

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 28th, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

3. *Updates and discussion on Rawson Bridge/ Town Trail*

Robert Simmons had requested that the town give the bridge and town trail to him. In 2010, the town made the determination to downgrade the highway to a trail. The bridge has structural problems then and no improvements have been made to the bridge. The trail is used minimally. The trail is about 50 feet long. Various towns members have said that the town should not give up any town trails. The issue of ownership is still one of the problems, the board is unclear if the town owns the bridge or not.

Is the board willing to give up the town trail? Does the town own the bridge?

The ownership of the bridge needs to be clarified.

4. *Lister's Errors & Omissions request*

The first one is the Vermont Electric company, VELCO. The utility sends the value and the listers agree or disagree. If the CLA is not applied, they apply it. The utility called and said they had already factored in the CLA so it was applied twice.

Tom made a motion to increase the 2020 appraised value for VELCO from \$343,400 to \$347,100. Seconded by Paul, All in favor.

The second one is based on a survey that was filed ten years ago. The survey says there is only .25 acres when the town had them at .40 acre.

Tom made a motion to reduce the acreage on parcel 00-L71 from \$178,900 to \$176,500. Seconded by Paul, All in favor.

5. Update and discussion on R&R signs

The board has decided to fine 3894 Vermont Route 30 for being in non-compliance. A letter was written at the beginning of September to try and get things in compliance. John, the sign administrator, has tried to work with him. John was going to meet with the owner last weekend but it did not happen. John suggest that we send out an official letter to begin the process for fining him for the two signs on the old Muzzy building. The ordinance is written that the fines are given out every week until he is in compliance.

The fines increase every week.

John will email the letter and send it to the town clerk to put on town letterhead.

There is a process to follow and it needs to be formalized. The treasurer will send out a weekly notice of what the fines are.

6. Update on proposed False Alarm Ordinance

Tom is looking into the process of adopting an ordinance. It needs to be published in the local paper and it needs to be posted five places around town. If people do not agree, they can petition to have it not adopted.

Another step is to have the town attorney look it over and make sure everything is legal.

7. Update on Communication Union District Business Plan

Windham Regional Commission released the business plan. They held a webinar giving the highlights. They are on the WRC website. There is a clear plan for fifteen of the towns in the CUD but not for the other twelve towns. They might combine with the Southern Vermont CUD in the Bennington area. There will be two hubs, one in Wilmington and one in Jamaica. We would have to provide it with emergency power. The fire department would be an ideal place.

There are still residents in Jamaica who cannot get Comcast.

8. Update on electronic speeding sign locations

The signs have been installed. The one on Depot Street is not in a good spot, no one can really speed where it is placed now. Different places were looked at and they would like to put one near Bob Stomski's house in the summer. The signs on Route 30 are still waiting for approval from the state.

There are still kids playing in the road on Pikes Falls where it was recently paved. It is

not safe for the kids to be playing in the road.

Tom would like a sign coming off South Hill saying that town ahead or thickly settled.

9. Update on SVCable, Comcast and town e-mail addresses

The svcable email address's will not be good at the end of the month. There are 500 addresses that come with our website. If you need a town email, contact Tom Tolbert. The town office and town hall have been converted to comcast.

10. Household Hazardous Waste Collections in Brattleboro and Wilmington, October 24

There will be a household hazardous waste collection in Brattleboro and Wilmington on October 24.

11. Review time sheets for town office, listers, highway and transfer station

12. Review pay orders

There is a charge for an adjustment for \$4,500 from Delurey. What is the adjustment?

13. Other public concerns

Jackie and Tom would like to plant wildflowers in the field next to his house.

Tom Made a motion to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall