

Selectboard Minutes

August 8, 2022

Selectboard Present: Tom Tolbert, Greg Meulemans (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Jessica Pollack and Kate Ullman

Public Present: Christopher Robbins, Anne Connor, and Jo Anna Young (Norwich Solar)

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 July 25th Selectboard Meeting

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Andy.

Number 12- keep track 'of' not "on"

Covid test if "you" think have it.

Rawsonville trapped door, extra word that. Rawsons should not have an apostrophe. Right below there is an extra quotation mark.

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Tom. All in favor.

3. Update on Deerfield Valley Communication Union District

Christopher Robbins gave a presentation on DV Fiber. The goal is to provide high speed internet for all. They are working on a pre-construction grant that was for \$4.1 million. They have hired Great Works Internet (GWI). The cables that were needed have been purchased. The fiber optic cable has been purchased. They have established policies, completed the Fiscal Year 2021 audit, and developed a financial plan. A construction grant for \$21.9 million was awarded. They are in the construction phase now. Construction will guarantee symmetric 100/100MBs. This is the lowest speed. Jamaica will be build-out in stages 3 and 4. Once build-out begins, Stage 3 will be completed in 24 months. DV Fiber is owned by the citizens of the 24 member towns. VCBB will match the \$22,100 that the town has given with the ARPA money. They need volunteers, please contact Chris Robbins or Anne Connor for more information.

4. Notice and approval of siting letter for proposed solar array on Tony Lane

The Planning Commission has gone through the process to review it to see if it works with our Town Plan and it does. The Planning Commission have written a letter saying it is a preferred site. The letter is only to say the location is a preferred site. Greg made a motion to sign the letter as written by the Planning Commission, seconded by Tom. 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

5. Discuss and adopt the proposed Traffic Ordinance

Charlie has drafted a traffic ordinance. Tom made a motion to adopt the traffic ordinance, seconded by Jessica. Tom asked who would write tickets? The sheriff's department can issue tickets, the constable, or a designated employee of the town. All in favor. The public has 60 days

to petition if they do not want the ordinance.

6. Update on town roads

They are working on grants & aid, around \$17,000. The ditching unit is not working. They will be working in Dalewood because that does that require the machine. They got about 20 culverts done before the machine broke, but the parts are unavailable at this time. They are looking into renting equipment as a possibility. Our new truck that was supposed to arrive last fall, might be ready this fall. They have updated and revised the highway crew's timesheets to know what is being done, when and where. Richard is going to be retiring this fall.

7. Update on Town Office operations

We have been cleaning and expanding the space of the town office. It has been a long-term project. The upstairs needs some painting. There have been issues with locks, so we will be getting new locks on the door and possibly a lockbox outside.

8. Update on Transfer Station operations

Dan will be retiring; the job should be posted this week. We are also exploring some physical upgrades. They will be working on a grant for that. They are hoping to make more uniform hours, such as 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are considering having the transfer station open on Friday and having one weekend day being a half day.

9. Discussion of using portion of ARPA money for Hazard Pay

Moved to executive session.

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

11. Review and approve pay orders

12. Reminder of VT Primary Vote

The Vermont Primary Election is Tuesday, August 9th. Polls are open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

13. Public concerns

No public remaining.

At 8:12 p.m. Tom "I move to find that premature general public knowledge of the highway position would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage, if the Selectboard discusses salary information in public." Seconded by Jessica.

Tom ""I move that we enter executive session to discuss the highway position under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes." Seconded by Kate, all in favor.

Exit executive session at 8:25 p.m.

No decision made.

At 8:27 p.m. Tom "I move to find that premature general public knowledge of allocating ARPA funds would clearly place the employees at a substantial disadvantage, if the Selectboard discusses salary information in public." Seconded by Andy.

Tom ""I move that we enter executive session to discuss the hazard & retention pay under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes." Seconded by Andy, all in favor.

Exit executive session at 8:45 p.m.
No decision made.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall