

Selectboard Minutes
May 22, 2023

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

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Susan Ahl, Mike Tuller (Town Administrator), Diana Demarsico, Jacki Brown

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

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

A. Attendance at the Power Outage Scenario

B. Water Street Committee

C. Water Street Committee Funding

2. Approve the minutes from the May 8th Selectboard meeting and May 11th Special Meeting

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 8th Selectboard meeting, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 11th Special meeting, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

3. Update on action to appoint committee to recommend candidates for the treasurer/delinquent tax collector

There have been 5 resumes submitted and have been reviewed by the committee. They identified an initial 3 candidates and have started checking references. They will schedule another meeting and give their recommendations to the Selectboard.

4. Culvert bids

This was an effort by Keith Hazard, Mike Tuller and Greg Meulemans. It is a prerequisite for the paving project. There are 8 culverts that were identified that need to be replaced. It is a bigger project than they think our road crew can take on. They reached out to five different people and got one quote back from Hunter Excavating. He put in a lump sum bid for everything except for the culverts. The initial quote is \$25,000. There was also a quote with hourly rates that would include the highway crew helping them with the project. Greg estimated cost would be under \$14,000. Mike supports the hourly rate bid.

Jessica proposed that we resolve to approve both bids, our preference would be to work with Hunter, however we will designate to the road commissioner, the road foreman and town administrator, that they would be authorized to go in the direction, which was best at the time, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

5. Road side mowing decision

We received one bid for \$25,000 and it was tabled at the last meeting. Greg and Keith recommended not accepting the bid. The road crew will do what they have in the last couple of years and hand cut blind corners and such. There is a piece of equipment budgeted for next year that they could use if they had the right attachment.

Greg made a motion that we do not accept the bid from Saladino Property Maintenance for roadside mowing, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

6. Humane Society agreement

The Humane Society agreement has not increased since last year, it is still \$385.

Jessica made a motion to approve the Humane Society Contract, seconded by Derek. All in favor.

7. Town Hall HVAC and painting proposals

They have 3 proposals for the town office:

Irving: \$10,084 + \$20,456 = \$30,540

Cota & Cota: \$19,000 + \$10,500 = \$29,500 (would need a new tank)

Carol Mechanical: \$9,331 + \$9,587 + \$7,102 + \$24,394 = \$50,414

Susan said that Heat Pumps need a backup and make your electric bill skyrocket.

Greg said they installed Heat Pumps last year and cut their propane cost to zero.

Mike has 2 proposals for painting the Town Hall.

Stebbins \$35,000 single coat of paint, \$47,000 for 2 coats of paint, \$65.00 an hour for minor repairs

Chris Brown- \$57,600 includes windows and sashes.

The third company would not be able to do the work until next year.

They are estimating that we would need construction easements to use the lift.

8. Jessica made a resolution to approve Paul going to event for scenarios for loss of power, and if it worked out Jennifer Dorta-Duque would go as well, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

This event is in Wilmington on June 28, 2023.

9. Water Street Committee

There is a shed on the property, that is usable. They are asking permission to store hoses and tools in the shed.

Andy said that the deed states that nothing insurable can be on the property. Jessica would like to see the inside of the shed before deciding.

The Water Street Committee has received a grant and some donations. What will happen with the funds? The recreation committee had their own account and kept track of their finances.

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

Jessica made a motion to approve the time sheets, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

11. Review and approve pay orders

Jessica made a motion to approve the pay orders, seconded by Derek. All in favor.

10. Public concerns

Diana Demarsico, on West Hill Road South, has issues with the road. She emailed Greg and he responded that he would like to come walk the road. She has registered as a farm and has watershed issues with the runoff from the road. The water is going through her property that runs off from the road.

The library is partnering with the church with a weekly food box for those with children under 18, starting on June 23rd. Pickup is at the community church downstairs. They will need volunteers to go Thursday morning to Townshend to pick them up and they need volunteers to help with the pickup at the church. This will be before noon.

Summer reading challenge, read to bead. You can gather beads for reading or being read to.

Summer reading buddy, they are looking for volunteers. Reach out to Susan at the Library.

Summer camp at the library is July 31-August 4 from 12:30-4 p.m. The cost is \$25 and scholarships are available. Register now 802-874-4901.

At 8:45 p.m.

Jessica, "I move to find that premature general public knowledge of a salary, would clearly place the candidates at a substantial disadvantage, if the Selectboard discusses salaries in public. I move that we enter into executive session to discuss said salaries 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 9:14 p.m.

No decision made.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall