

Selectboard Minutes

August 14, 2023

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

Public Present: Greg Lakis, Paul Fraser, Barbara Lowe, Abby Lowe, Kristen Lowe, Eunice Mowrey, Stuart Chapin, Pat Knight, Janet Rabinowitch, Chris Lowe, Chrissy Haskins, Jean Legge, Lou Mowrey, Will Mowrey, Diane Chamberlin Sawyer, Pamela Coburn, Karen Bills, Dana Ladd, Julie Lowe, Bruce Mowrey, Josie Betit, Ronald Betit, Karen Ameden, Daina Demarsico, Raschid Joyce, Pat Felcan (FEMA), Anna Aguirre (FEMA)

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

1. *Approve the minutes from the July 24th Special Meeting of the Selectboard*

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from July 24th, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

2. *FEMA topics: (i) deadline for individual application, (ii) town application process update, (iii) NGO/Non-Profits organizing to form Long Term Recovery Group, and (iv) opening of Disaster Recovery Center*

Tuesday, FEMA will be August 29th at Neighborhood Connections at 3 p.m. for non-profit organizations.

There will be a representative from each town who can share information with the rest of the town.

The Disaster Recovery Center is currently at the Fire Department, it is for individuals.

The deadline for individuals is August 22nd for FEMA.

Discussion on FEMA and what they will pay, what they will replace what was existing before but they do not generally pay for upgrades unless they are minimal.

Discussion on hiring an engineer, there is an engineer that has looked at some of the projects.

Are there are other resources for the homeowners with damage? It was suggested to reach out to our state representative, Laura Sibia. Call your state senator or governor.

3. *Update on Storm Damage projects and related funding from Town Administrator*

There are 20 road/bridge projects in town. They have put together letters to NRCS that include Diana and Raschid's properties. They will be looking at Ball Mountain Brook next week.

The State flood plain manager is meeting with Mike next week.

There is a potential consultant helping out with FEMA work.
Old Route 8 is a slide to the river. It is a big project that needs to go out to bid.

4. *Plan for South Hill Paving/ Patching and timing for resubmitting RFPs for full paving project (moved to start of meeting)*

We received one bid for the paving project, we were not certain if it would happen this fall. We need to obtain a line of credit in anticipation of FEMA funding. The South Hill paving project was budgeted, Keith spoke with the contractor. The contractor has graciously offered to defer a part of the bill, but they will complete the work before the winter. The work will begin in three weeks to a month.

The paving will go from the town line to Barbara's house.

Discussion on South Hill in general, roadside mowing or street sweeping doesn't happen according to residents. Knight Road sign has been down.

VTRANS is looking at the section on South Hill that runs into Raschid's property.

5. *Welcome to our new Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector*

Moved to executive session.

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

Jessica made a motion to approve, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

7. *Review and approve pay orders*

Jessica made a motion to approve, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

8. *Public concerns*

FEMA was passing out water test kits, Raschid is wondering if anyone had theirs tested yet.

Greg Lakis said there are some water test kits at the fire station. There are some boxes of food, if you need them, let Greg Lakis know. They also have water.

The last food distribution for kids is this Thursday at the church. It is part of the USDA program.

Old Route 8: There is a substantial land slide and bank erosion, it is a larger scale than what we can do on our own. Please do not work on the town roads without permission from the road foreman. There are many reasons that people should not do this, the main reason is liability. Everything needs to go out to bid. Discussion on where it is posted.

West Hill- No caution sign was put on either end of the road.

9. *Executive Session*

Jessica, "I move to find that premature general public knowledge of concerns related to our initially selected treasurer/delinquent tax collector would clearly place the individual at a substantial disadvantage, if the Selectboard discusses sensitive information in public."

Seconded by Kate.

Jessica, "I move that we enter into executive session to discuss the events surrounding the candidate for treasurer, 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 9:10 p.m.

No decision was made.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall