**MINUTES SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Monday 6:00 PM, January 4, 2021**

**Attendance of Selectboard by Electronic Devices**

**Meeting being held electronically pursuant to 1 VSA 312, including The Legislature’s H.861 (2020) “Temporary Suspension of Designated Physical Meeting Location Requirements”**

**Public, wishing to attend the meeting may use the link posted on the Agenda for that meeting.**

**Present at the hearings and meeting were:** Chair Joe Pollio, Stan Mack, Cathy Siano-Goodwin, Al Sands and John Gregory.

**Others present:** Charles Bonin, Galen Pinkham, Hardy and Nancy Merrill, Eric Stevens, Mary Federer, Dottie Cannon, Mike Field, Sheriff Mark Anderson, Jon Schaefer, Wendy Martin, Suzanne Welch, Kim Record Clerk-Treasurer, Danny Taylor Highway Foreman, and Bill Kearns Town Administrator.

FACT 8 TV

Open the meeting: the chair opened the regular meeting of the Selectboard at 6:00 PM

1. Adopt Agenda. After discussion about what the agenda included, Al Sands moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Second John Gregory. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Minutes of December 21, 2020. There was a correction offered concerning the Capital Budget discussion. It was determined that the missing discussion about the Budget which the Capital Budget Committee actually authorized $190,000 at its last meeting, and then increased that to ($207,000+) before the Chair of the Capital Budget Committee on Dec 21 presented the SB with an even $200,000 budget, which the SB approved. Motion to adopt the agenda as corrected by Stan Mack, second John Gregory. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Sheriff Mark Anderson asked to address the meeting. The Chair asked if there was any objection since he was not on the agenda. There was no objection. Joe Pollio welcomed him to address the meeting. John Gregory inquired of the Sheriff and the Board what it was the Sheriff deputies were to do in Town, what did the contract call for. John noted that the stop at the Tavern (Main St. and Townshend Rd.) was blatantly run all the time, yet the Sgt was usually way up at the bridge enforcing the speed, and thus the rolling slow down in lieu of a stop at the intersection. Furthermore, John wanted to know why the deputy was off on side roads. John challenged the Board to give direction to the Sheriff in the next contract. During all this discussion the Sheriff stated his deputies base their operation primarily on complaints received, such as, speeding coming into town in all directions, and then suspicious activities, cars parked, and landowners concerned. He further stated that with such limited time provided for in the Contract, 1.87 hrs. per week, even if there was consistent enforcement at the stop sign or on speeding at any one point, the frequency of stops for violations was be so sparse as to do little good at changing the behavior of persons passing through that area. It is not the effect that being there every day would have on behavior. Joe Pollio stated the contract had been the same over the years and the Selectboard has never tried to direct the Sheriff patrol operations. Al Sands commented that people do not want to spend the money on emergency services but expect them to be there when they want them. The Selectboard members agreed they need to pay more attention to this an decide just what they want of the Sheriff in the next Contract. The Sheriff commented on the recognized difficulty in rural law enforcement and is willing to work with the town. The board thanked the sheriff for his presentation.
4. Warrants. Had all been signed by the Selectboard and accepted at the meeting.
5. Highway. Danny Taylor presented the info.
   * John Gregory asked about the bill for circulating pumps at the Shed and Danny explained the issue and cost.
   * As for road damage and repairs, Danny went over them with Marc Pickering, Dist. 2 VTrans, and the conclusion was that, using FEMA damage estimate system, we had too little cost to reach the $26,000 threshold, and thus could get nothing from the State. We were at $11,000 using that system, and our actual cost, many parts of which were individually too small, by the FEMA system, to count, was near $18,000. No reimbursement. Only a few towns had enough damage to qualify.
   * No date on new truck being done. Body, from Canada had not yet arrived.
   * The Christmas damage left over two spots on pavement to be repaired and they would be addressed this week.
6. Consider Articles to be voted at Town Meeting: reviewed the Article. Attorney has looked at them and suggested a few things, but primarily there are as is. SB need to look at them carefully and must finalize them on the 14th at 4:15 PM.
7. Clerk/Treasurer
   * The SB was reminded to go over the draft of the audit and will be meeting with Fred Duplessis of Sullivan Powers on the 19th of January.
   * The Town Report is still being organized.
   * Working on the conduct of the elections.
   * Dog licensing procedure being planned.
   * The two grants: a grant for elections – equipment and materials and the grant for digitizing records were acted upon and the digitizing continues.
   * Computers one for Bill and one for Danny are being sought from Lenovo. A tablet for Danny’s work on road inventory is being considered.
8. Other Business. Joe Pollio brought us a complaint by a neighbor for noise at the CIC building. There is nothing the Town can do about it as we have no regulations, but if the Act 250 people did their jobs, they would require a permit and could assist in cutting down the noise perhaps. After discussion there was a motion by Cathy Siano-Goodwin that the Administrator send a letter to the complainant and to the various governmental agencies who have refused to do their jobs spelling out our lack of regulations, but also our efforts at getting Act 250 to act and efforts for enforcement at the site and send copies of that letter to the governmental agencies involved. Second Stan Mack. Motion passed unanimously. Also, under other Business Al Sands asked that the Tree Warden be put on the agenda for next meeting or the one after.
9. Public Comment. None
10. Executive Session Personnel. Motion to enter into executive session Al Sands, second Cathy Siano-Goodwin. Passed unanimously at 7:00 PM. Motion to exit executive session Stan Mack, Al Sands second. Exited 7:47 PM. No action was taken in executive session.
11. Date of Next Selectboard Meetings: January 14 at 4:15 PM and January 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM (Microsoft Teams)
12. Adjourn. Everyone agreed to adjourn at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Kearns, Town Administrator