**MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**Regular – Via Microsoft Teams**

**Very Limited “Live” attendance upstairs Town Hall**

**Monday, March 1, 2021 @ 6:00 PM**

Present at the meeting in town Hall were Joe Pollio, Cathy Siano-Goodwin, and Sue Allen. Also present via Microsoft Teams was John Gregory. Absent was Stan Mack.

Residents present in the Hall were Joan Lake and Dottie Canon, and Bill Kearns. Residents present on Microsoft Teams Suzanne Welch, Hardy Merrill and Nancy Merrill, Wendy Martin, Charles Bonin, and Al Sands;

1. Call to order. The capital C chair called a meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
2. Adopt Agenda. Motion by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Sue Allen to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion past 4-0.
3. Approve Minutes of February 16, 2021. Suzanne Welch referred to the minutes of January 19th concerning the streetlights. There was a long discussion concerning the issue of sending a letter to those persons responsible for decorating the village light posts, discussing their work and the arrangements, and whether or not that letter had been sent. Further, there was discussion about whether a letter needs to be sent. The minutes do not reflect the fact that that letter was not sent because of a discussion among all the persons involved in the matter, including the Selectboard Chair, the town administrator, the Windham Foundation administration, and the Windham Foundation maintenance as well as the persons who did the work on the light post. They had come to an understanding and resolution of the matter and an email had been sent to them by Joe Pollio thanking them for their work and acknowledging the misunderstanding with regard to the arrangements for permission to decorate the light posts. John Gregory then added that he considered the matter ended and there was no reason to open up the issue. As to the minutes there were several typo corrections. Motion by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, second Sue Allen to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed 4-0
4. Warrants of 2/26/2021. Were presented to and signed off by the Selectboard prior to the meeting.
5. Highway:
   * Excess weight permits: Wilson & Lawrence, Field and Sons and Fabian Earthmoving. The Selectboard considered the applications for it excess weight permits from Wilson & Lawrence, Field and Sons, and Fabian Earthmoving, and on motion by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, second by Sue Allen approved the excess weight permits for these parties and authorized the Town Administrator to execute them for the Selectboard on a vote of 4- 0.
   * VLCT input to VTrans on funding for Town Roads – Joe Pollio addressed this issue. VLCT had contacted Vermont towns stating that state could add $21 million to the V trans budget for town highways. VLCT asked, if any of the towns could receive an unlimited amount of money for highway projects, what projects could the Town complete in the next year. Danny Taylor and Bill Kearns made a list of projects that the Town Highway Department could accomplish or have contractors accomplish within the year, and five more projects that could be done by the end of the building season of the following year. Joe Pollio shared this list with Karen horn of VLCT and volunteered to appear with her, if she wished, in the meeting with the legislature. Karen Horn did invite him. Joe attended the meeting with Karen Horn at the Transportation Committee. He found that they were not aware of the costs of upkeep and replacement of Town highways systems and structures, and he was specific about Town highway needs, especially for out many dirt roads. Joe then talked about what the towns needed in the form of assistance. Joe Pollio hoped to form a committee of not more than 10 including road crews and Selectboard members to meet with the Legislators on transportation issues to inform them of the reality.
6. Discussion of Selectboard Committees: Are these 5 the ones the SB want? Personnel, Buildings, Highway, Parks and Cemeteries? Discuss Committee functions and reporting. The committees named above are being proposed by Joe Pollio to expand the number of Selectboard committees from three to five. He then went through the list of committees and talked about what their purposes were. Furthermore, he stated the purpose of each committee, and that each committee is to handle the issues to come up in each one of those sectors, and then bring any action items to the board. The two persons assigned to the committee would run that committee, have discussions among whoever they wished at their committee meetings, and then bring those issues to the board for action. He then explained the reason for the committees rather than the entire board handling each of these issues is that there are only two Selectboard members on a committee, the committee then can have meetings informally whenever it wished, without having to give notice and without it being a public meeting. After further discussion it was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Sue Allen to amended number of Selectboard committees from 3 to 5, those five being Personnel, Buildings, Highway, Parks and Cemeteries, that there be a job description developed by the Selectboard for each of those committees, and that at each Selectboard meeting an agenda item would be Committee Reports, where pertinent information from any committee would be reported and discussed. In the discussion of the motion Suzanne Welch asked if the Selectboard would fill in those details, and the answer to that was yes. When the motion was called it passed 4-0.
7. Clerk/Treasurer: Reminder, Vote Counters need to be at Brick Meeting House at 7:00 PM
8. HSU Grant Application. Bill Kearns requested that the Selectboard authorize the application to VT HSU for a grant covering cyber security here at the Town Hall and security cameras for the Town garage. He presented the application he had prepared, with the details of the work requested and costs under the grant. The approximate value of that application is $16,000 with $2000 for security cameras at the garage and the balance for the cyber security work at the Town Hall. This cyber security work had been proposed by DominionTech during this past year. Bill Kearns also asked that he and Kim Record be authorized to sign the application on behalf of the town. Sue Allen made the motion, seconded by John Gregory to authorize the application for this Homeland Security grant as described and as presented to the board at the meeting and to allow its signature on behalf of the town by Bill Kearns and Kim Record. When the motion was called it passed 4-0.
9. Public Comment. Nancy Merrill raised the issue of the acoustics at these virtual meetings and stated that the sound is not good and must be fixed. Bill kearns discussed the solution with the Board. Following the discussion, the Selectboard agreed that Bill Kearns would work on it with the personnel from FACT8 TV and would have a test Microsoft meeting in which the solutions were tested to see if the acoustics improved.
10. Other Business. None
11. Date of Next Meeting – Organizational March 2 after vote counting in the Brick Meeting House and March 15, 2021 @ 6:00 PM.
12. Adjourn. Motion was made by Sue Ellen seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to adjourn this meeting at 6:47 PM. Motion past four to zero.

Respectfully presented,

William G. Kearns