

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019 at 6:00 PM
MEETING ROOM – WILLEY BUILDING**

Those present: Selectboard: Fred Ducharme, Ruth Goodrich, Mike Hogan, Matthew Nally

Town: Betty Ritter, Michelle Leclerc

Other: Gary Gulka, Roland Payne, Jr., Michelle Braun, Friends of the Winooski, Gianna Petito, Winooski NRCD

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Fred Ducharme.
2. Approve Agenda – Ruth^{1st}, Mike 2nd. Fred asked if there were any changes or additions. Betty asked to go into executive session regarding a real estate matter
3. Approve Minutes from
 - a. December 3, 2019 Budget Meeting-Ruth 1, Mike 2nd. Motion passed.
 - b. December 3, 2019 (Selectboard Meeting)-Fred amendment after the agenda put the nomination. Item 7 Ruth got the email address from ZA computer and then emailed from home. Ruth 1st, Mike 2nd. Motion passed.
 - c. December 10, 2019 Budget Meeting-Mike 1st, Ruth 2nd. Motion passed.
 - d. December 13, 2019 Budget Meeting-Mike 1st, Ruth 2nd. Motion passed.
4. Public Comment- There was no public comment.
5. Friends of the Winooski – Flood Resilience Grant Opportunity/Emerald Ash Borer- Roland Payne Jr. along with Gianna Petito from Winooski Conservation District went over a couple of grants they are offering. The Urban Forestry has two grants and they are both due the middle of January. They are offering up to \$15,000 to communities for Emerald Ash Borer if we do a match of \$15,000 which would be for cost of buying new trees that you take down. The smaller \$1,000 – 4,000 grant is for to do the inventory, prepare response plan and planting. Both of these grants are a full match. Roland said it's in Marshfield and is probably four or five miles from Cabot. All trees will be impacted just not sure when and we need to develop a strategy. There is a two to three year window before they become brittle. Fred is asking if we are pre-active in this it would be better. Part of it is an education to the public. Mike asked if \$30,000 would take care of all the trees. Roland said this will be happening over 10 years. A certified tree service would take the trees down. Roland has inventoried the trees except Blodgett Road and Town Forest Road. The response plan will involve some other people. He discussed how to get rid of the trees. The deadline for the grant is January 16th. Ruth would like to wait until next meeting. Matt was wondering what the \$500 was for and would it help Roland to do more inventory. Roland is thinking a lot less time to do this and he would like to talk with the Selectboard on what to do. We will need signage, flaggers and someone to do the work. Roland will send Betty the inventory. Selectboard will make the decision on January 7th. Roland will be coming to January 21st meeting.

Gary Gulka had a grant from the High Meadows Fund with the Friends of The Winooski for small and large woodlands on flooding. The project was to focus on education. Plainfield, Marshfield and Cabot conservation committees were involved. They received a grant to the Friends of the Winooski. There was a presentation and booths on assisting land owners. The High Meadows Fund approached the Friends of the Winooski and would like to do a roundtable with Selectboard members, road commissioner, and road crew. Michelle Braun did a presentation of how we can help landowners with flood issues.
6. To Do List-Betty passed this out.
7. Water/Wastewater - There was no business.
8. Road Commissioner – There was no business.
9. Town Clerk's Office
 - a. Orders-done
 - b. Other business- Sullivan Powers Co. has sent us a contract for the 2019 audit. The price is approximately \$16,000. Mike moved that we accept this contract with a second by Ruth. Motion passed. Mike would like to add that Sullivan Powers Co. is doing a great job and very easy to work with.
 - c. There will be a meeting for the Washington County pre-budget on December 27 at 10 am.
 - d. Betty and Michelle are working on the town report and they are compiling it. The auditors were the ones that

- in the past put the Town Report together and the Town Clerk's Office will be doing this. We have requested that all articles be submitted by January 9th.
- e. Also, we need to add to the Warning an Article for the Office of Town Auditors to be dissolved.
 - f. Betty received a thank you note for finishing the floors at the Masonic Hall from Faith in Action.

10. Other Business-There was no other business.

11. Executive Session – A motion was made by Ruth and seconded by Mike to go into Executive Session. Motion carried. We went into Executive Session at 6:30 pm. There was no action taken. We came out of Executive Session at 6:39 pm

12. Adjourn – A motion was made by Ruth and seconded by Matt to adjourn. Motion passed. We adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer