

## SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, June 30, 2020 at 3:00 PM

Meeting with Meeting with ZOOM

Those Present: Selectboard: Fred Ducharme, Ruth Goodrich, Mike Hogan, John Cookson, Matt Nally

Town: Betty Ritter, Michelle Leclerc

Other: Stan Borosky and Karlyn Schmidt (in person), via zoom: Ellen Cairns, Jenn Miner, Daniel Peterson, Steve Cox

1. Call meeting to order - The meeting was called to order by Fred Ducharme at 3:02
2. Approve Agenda - A motion was made by Mike with second by Ruth. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment – Stan Barosky wanted to discuss regarding the experience he had the other night. He spoke of two incidents: the first one waited for 2 ½ hours regarding his mother-in-law and the second one was a shorter time. He warned that there is not enough coverage for the area and some may die. He thought we should look into a program such as Waitsfield has that covers 4 towns similar to our area. He is willing to get some information if we would allow it. Daniel – we discussed this at the ambulance meeting. It is very frustrating for us as volunteers. If the Town was willing to come up with numbers, part time pay and volunteers. Do not know if it is feasible. Daniel stated that he is very grateful for the volunteers. Ruth – did hear the call at 3 a.m. – Just had an EMT class and we are trained to always just drop and go. Chris (Karyln) called Barre Town right away, and when she arrived Stan wanted to get his wife to the emergency room himself. Barre Town was in transit and was in Plainfield. Daniel said that he would welcome any assistance. Stan stated that the day of volunteer is gone.

Waitsfield charges \$50.00 per family – with 4 towns – this is a viable thing. Jenn stated that we did speak with services such as Waitsfield the majority are also volunteer. Neighboring towns – Danville and W. Danville used Calix, Plainfield and Marshfield use East Montpelier; Hardwick covers part of Walden and Calix covers parts of Walden. Montpelier will cover if no one else available. The Towns have contracts with the ambulance service. Contract will be coming up a year or so. Daniel will check into what it would cost to cover 24/7. We are working on seeing if we can get full time, and some volunteer and prove that we can cover Cabot, however, we believe that it will be an increase in taxes with little revenue coming in to offset the taxes. At this point Stan left the meeting. Karlyn then spoke that Stan was very angry and stressful. Karlyn immediately called for backup from Barre Town. She responded within 22 minutes from the time the call came in. She requested Barre Town support and by the time she reached Stan's residence Barre Town was already in Plainfield. Ruth said that she could have got there, but her time would have been more than the 22 minutes.

Each time they go out they are putting their life at risk and the emotions are high. Volunteers have to work around their schedules (work, children, etc.) There is a possibility of performing first aid classes in homes.

If we turned into a fast squad it would be \$45,000, which would still not cover training, supplies, and if we contract out, it would hurt the community. When we call for a backup and they transport the patient they get the revenue which is around \$300-\$400.

Steve Cox – a little concerned about the time for several meetings which were called at 3:30 or 8:30. Mike stated that there are certain meetings that we need to schedule different times, and we are abiding by open meeting law. Betty mentioned that all regular select board meetings are always held on first and third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Special meetings need to be called at other days and times.

4. Working Road Commissioner Position – Mike began about the statutes say and it is very clear that the roads are maintained by the road crew. We have had issues over the years with the previous road commissioners. Betty made a list of projects and they can be added to as we think of them. Options to consider: 1) stay at the current course and see what happens, 2) board appoints a liaison from the SB of one or two to oversee; 3) empower the road foreman – in the past the RC did not communicate with the road foreman for the work needed to be done. We need to have a weekly schedule and log book submitted to the town clerk's office along with status of cost any problems – weekly reports, issue – monitor budgets, attend both meetings; or board will budget RC next year. Need oversight of the road crew. Need someone to tell them the schedule people want to know what to do.

Matt – road foreman has never been in position to account for all of the expectation and doesn't believe he knows the expectations. Need to put personality aside and to make sure roads are taken care of. Need to be supervised and accountable.

Ruth stated that she appreciated what Mike put together. Casual does not cut it. People become comfortable in their job. Level of performance can suffer. We need to start with a clean slate. Mike stated that the foreman needs to have the tools to do the job and encouragement, and willing to do it. All 3 individuals can do the job but it is needed to have a line of communication to do the job and follow through. Ruth said that it would be good for them to have a schedule on Friday for the following week of jobs to be done.

Mike - we need to have some continuity. Can't respond if we don't have what has been done. Ruth said this is a great possibility to go forward. Matt it is very important that there is a time frame and a time to step up. Ruth thought it would be good to have it effective immediately and check after 3 months to see if this is working. John said the parts need to be approved before they are ordered and to have them delivered as much as possible. He suggested that anything over \$1,000 needs to be approved. Matt wanted to make sure they are aware of the spending cap and they understand the parameters.

Mike asked what are the guidelines? John: what do you need for the week ahead, any major repairs. etc. Matt was wondering about any expenses with a \$500.00 cap. John said it should be a breakdown of everything such as tires. Come to the board for the expenditures. Matt wanted to know who is going to oversee the weekly summary of what happened the previous week. We need to have a weekly summary of time cards, watching overtime, personal time, checking the time cards.

Mike believes that it should be the whole board with Aldo coming to the regularly scheduled Board Meetings. Go over the road foreman. Need to not have just one point person but a united board. The board will give a list of the projects and prioritize them. This seems to be a fair way to deal with the situation and if they can't do it we will take the next step.

John the crew should keep track of time with a time clock. Punch time is good, back up for different projects. The more clarification we have the better off we are. We would also need a detailed report of how much time was spent on each job, which equipment, supplies, problems, etc.

Mike suggested to four months – October this would take us to the time we start on the budget for next year.

John – will make a more thorough list with cooperative efforts on the Board's part.

John stated there is a corner need to get fixed at the garage, tightened up, and the building should be locked at all times when no one is there. If they are not around and someone needs to get into the garage, they can always call the Town Clerk's office.

Matt suggested that we rotate to come in and review timesheets and bills. We owe it to the Town to have a clear understanding of the time sheets, budget. We should have a running log for each road crew and to make sure the garage is locked, and time sheets and bills to be paid turned in by 9:00 a.m. on Monday.

5. Update on Emergency Health Order – Spencer Property – Betty stated that this has been taken care without having any expense to the Town with the exception of the attorney. Leonard did take care of this on his own.
6. Other Business
  - a. Michelle has the work order for Porter Road to sign that they discussed last meeting.
  - b. Betty requested has asked for a tax anticipation note of \$300,000. A motion was made by Mike with a second by Ruth. Motion carried.
  - c. Aaron from the Creamery would like to join the meeting Tuesday night regarding the light pole needed for the Creamery.
  - d. Ruth read the letter from the librarian.
7. Adjourn – A motion was made by Ruth and seconded by Mike to adjourn. Motion carried. We adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer