

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

**via Zoom**

Meeting with Meeting with ZOOM (info at the end of the page)

Telephone and Computer Audio

Meeting ID 633-116-0345

Password: 7yarBj

Those attending: (entire meeting via zoom) Ruth Goodrich, Fred Ducharme, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter, Mike Hogan, Matt Nally, Cynthia Stuart, Karen Larsen, Dan Dunham, Terry Nunn, Aldo Nunn, Steve Cox, Trish Brochu-Cox, Jennifer Gochey, Ian Ackerman, Jim Wolentyz, Rory Thibault

1. Call meeting to order – The meeting was called to order by Fred Ducharme at 6:01 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Matt. Motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes from Minutes from January 11, Dog Hearing, January 19, and January 22 Special Meeting – A motion was made by Mike with a second by Ruth to accept minutes as printed. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment – Cynthia Stuart – question about the sale of the Masonic Hall. Fred stated that once we get approval from the voters we will go from there. Is Faith in Action interested? Cynthia is interested for FIA. Mike, we are looking at all the town-owned properties. We do have to have the voter's approval. We would advertise to sell it. Karen Larsen wanted to know about the way of selling town property. We are talking about more than just getting rid of some properties. We need to have a better way because of FIA. Ruth – wanted to stop the myth is that we are throwing out FIA. We have no intention of doing this and perhaps the next buyer, if it is not Faith in Action, would lease the space to them. Since January, 2010 we have collected \$67, 095 and spent \$235,700.26 for fix up the building as it was in very bad shape. We have lost \$168, 630 to date. We would to talk to them about what is a reasonable price. Karen was concerned in how we go about selling property. We had one that was just for sale and nothing was discussed about this. Fred: are you talking about South Walden Road – the Curtis place. Yes. This was obtained by the Town through a tax sale. We put it out to bid advertising in the papers and FPF. We are not allowed to collect any more than what we paid for it. Any extra money will go to abandoned property. She also was told that the Masonic Hall was sold to the Town for \$1.00, and maintain the Masons. We can't just talk about the dollars and cents. It is important to realize the importance of what the role that FIA provides for the Town. Karen – so there are different types of the way we sell property? Fred –as far as the Masonic Hall goes, we have invested in it heavily. The voters may agree with you and then we can't sell. Karen – any sale about recouping money that we put in it is that correct. Fred – no, I was one of the bigger persons to put the money this building. Ruth – nothing is going to happen quickly, we then need to look at all the possibilities. It is important not to jump to any conclusions. Karen – the lease is up in June, 2021 what happens then? Ruth - We will certainly work with FIA and as we said the vote to sell the property is just the beginning of the process.
5. Emergency Management Update – Jenn gave an update. As of this evening 12,196 cases in VT, 108 today, hospitalization up to 54, one new death, some in intensive care. There is a slow trend down. Seven new cases in Washington County. It has been over a week and we have 15 cases in this area. 75 years old people are able to get their shots by making an appointment and many have done so. The next group is 70 and older, and 60 and older. An increase of vaccines which will allow them to be proactive. Testing every day in Berlin and the Hardwick FD. Vermont Digger is asking questions regarding the outbreak in Cabot Creamery. Northfield is being transmitted all over the news. Matt wanted to know if we have a point of contact that we can talk with them. Jenn has tried and did make it clear that we had resources. Fred asked how can we get them to communicate. They are not obligated to give her or anyone else any information. She did advise the ambulance and FD to dress full PPE if they go on a call at the Creamery. Matt said that he is speaking for himself and would like to know as a citizen of this town if there is an outbreak.
6. Water/Wastewater
  - a. Other Business We received a contract form Dufrense Engineering. After talking with Jim at Utility Partners he said we do not have to do anything with the contract until 2022-23 as of right now.
7. Highway
  - a. Sale of Grader Shed Information good to have the information from the Mike Tarrant. The ad will be posted in the Times Argus and The Caledonia Record along with Front Porch Forum. Betty and Mike Tarrant worked with an ad.
  - b. Sidewalk, dry hydrants and snow clearance – Applicants (due 2-2) – deadline today. – Ruth - we did not talk about the Road Commissioner – we feel like we need. I would rather advertise – more of a leeway – getting somebody on task. Matt – deadline sidewalk closed today – one applicant. We do not want to move forward without an interview and hiring process. Appointment to come in to talk to the board. Ruth – it would be a good benefit.

Terry wanted to know about are the road crew and why can't they continue doing it. Every time he turns around he gets a knock. Ruth – they are doing a good job – but that is not our complaint. Better support the road crew. Road crew are doing an excellent job. Do we want to set up the date – hydrants, sidewalks, etc. – set a time. Matt – before we go forward with an applicant – pretty good overview – who they are reporting to, what equipment and how it is going to unfold. Put it out to bid for a contractor and would. Ruth – training a new employee might be hard. John did it last year. To have him oversee it – Chief Bothfeld could let us know – we can simplify this process. Steve Cox why do we have to hire someone, Jennifer Gochey – I agree with Steve. Do we just not have the time to do this. Fred – the question is overtime, Jennifer – we are now talking about two more position. Ruth – it has been budgeted, but we have not spent this. If the road crew does the work they do it after they get done with all their work and it would be overtime. Jennifer – the sidewalks are cleaned by 8:30. Terri – they have the equipment why do we have the John in there to stir the pot. Ian – how much do we have in the budget 30 hours/week for \$20/hr. You may also have to have insurance. Why wasn't that taken out of the budget. In the long run – we would be better. It has to be less to have the road crew continue and save the money. Matt – one is a road commissioner and the other is the sidewalk and hydrants clearer. If even if we are to pay the road crew to clear the sidewalks and the hydrants. Whether we are going to contract or hire a part time employee. To get them up to speed using the town equipment – logistical to have it subbed out. Ruth – what is the average price for contracting it out – Richard Ducharme – did quite a bit – it was thousands of dollars, he also had someone do the sidewalks. Fred – looking for the sidewalks to be cleared by the time the kids go to school. Sidewalks are a hold up here. Any more thoughts. Mike – February, March, and April. He is leaning going toward a contract person. Fred agrees with this. Mike – getting the sidewalks are the important. Fred – we could hire someone. We are all for contracting it out. Ruth – whatever we do we need to do it soon. Fred – basically it is the sidewalks. Continue the way it is. Seems to be working out. Let the boys do it. Trishia – let the road crew do it the way we are going. Mike – if they can handle it, let the road crew continue to do. Fred – haven't heard anyone complain. Boys are doing a good job. Ruth – something to consider if any road crew goes down because of sickness. We do need to remember this conversation. Matt – from the beginning I was not in favor of hiring an employee and getting a person up to speed. It makes more sense to have the road crew do it after they clear the roads. Jennifer – have we had discussions with the road crew – they are running the equipment and doing the job. Dan Dunham – Sid is pretty efficient and doing well and would like to hear from the road crew. Jim – my understanding that overtime was out of control and my understanding that they couldn't do it. Fred – sidewalks said they could handle it. They don't have a problem doing this. Sid is good and careful how they do it. Jim – is the overtime is unsustainable. Fred – no. Ruth – we have schedule a certain amount of overtime. Jim – it is the easiest thing to do is to continue as we are. Rory – we are not going into overtime if we have excess in the budget. Fred – we continue as we are. Ruth – we need to make sure the FD is cleared. Skip said the FD cleans by the door

- c. Mileage Certificate
- d. Town Highway and Bridge Weight Restriction filings
- e. Municipal Complete Street Compliance
- f. Who do we want to put down as the contact for the above items– suppose to be a road commissioner? Fred yes for Michelle to do the paperwork – Michelle and Ruth work on it together – she will work on it and Ruth to sign it
- g. Clocks & Camera final discussion – Ruth was talking about it – we voted on the cameras. What reason – security purposes – one that simply records – go back to the tapes – inside and outside – if there was ever a break in. Basically for insurance purpose to put them in to fall back if we need to. Time clock for the road crew – It is working well with the time sheets – no issues with the sheets. There is no problem with the time sheets – doesn't seem to be. Matt – we did modify the time sheets correct. Michelle – yes we did – a sheet working on the road, ditching, etc. for each road. Mike – we wanted a log to put down. Matt – both has been remedied without a time clock. Cameras – spoke at length monitor the outside the building – different options – going to be purchased and wi-fi is not good up there. Need to be outside but not inside. Ruth – some pricing \$400-\$1,000, Do not have a good wi-fi. If you do the other part – not hard wired. Does not need to go through the internet. DVR. Need to be in a place where a person cannot find it. Ruth – feels that it should be inside because of the equipment inside the building. Fred would be willing to go on the outside, but not inside. Mike – the most important thing – should be covered. Trish – one other suggestion. They tend to stay away if you put up a sign that there are cameras. Rory – Needing a time clock up there – monitoring the comings and goings of the road crew. What is the benefit of cameras? Betty will check with VLCT and PACIF regarding this. Ruth – this has nothing to do with the trusting the road crew, it is only about the protecting the property and equipment. Fred – see how much it will cost. Matt – reference security – what do we have illumination at night when no one is there. There can be steps taken. Ruth – we use solar powered lights and motion activated and very inexpensive. Ian – there are lights in the back and gate in front. Jennifer – we have other town buildings – are we going to do other buildings. Is there a concern about the garage? Fred – there is where we have the most valuable equipment. Fire Department has some substantial equipment. The Fire Department should possibly have some type of security. The FD is in a well-lighted area and the garage is way out. Trish – good security is good lighting.
- h. Road Commissioner position – hire or not – We have already discussed this. Aldo is still out there working
- i. Update on Dave's old truck – Aldo was out plowing.

j. Other business

8. Town Clerk's Office

a. Orders

b. Other Business voting Jim was concerned about the cost. Betty stated that since the last meeting the Secretary of State is providing mailing cost. We will also have another election on April 6 for the school directors and budget. Rory stated that we will be having an separate election for the budget and school directors on April 6, also.

9. Other Business – Roland working the CVRPC – transportation funds for – forward what a place consists of. SB and Aldo – create the maps of ash around town. Hog Weed – we couldn't find someone to spray, we do have someone to do this. Ruth said there is a patch also on Danville Hill. Would like to get someone from the SB to help with the Emerald Ash Borer. Mike – what does the SB have to do. Roland – review the plan – Mike will do it. Matt wanted to thank him for all the work. Roland also wanted to thank CVRPC, and Bonnie Waninger for their help in this matter.

10. Adjourn A motion was made by Mike with a second by Matt, motion carried. We adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer