

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Those present: In person: Mike Hogan, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter; via zoom: Fred Ducharme, Ian Ackermann, Matt Nally, Karlin Schmidt, Mark Christensen,, Ellen Cairns, Ruth Goodrich, Cynthia Stuart, Jenn Miner, Beth Wade, Frank Kampf, Dan Dunham, Kathleen Hoyne, Val Covell, Jim Wolynetz

1. Call meeting to order – the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mike Hogan.
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Matt. Motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes from Minutes from May 3, 2021meeting A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian to accept the minutes, motion carried with Matt abstaining from the May 7 meeting as he was not present.
4. Public Comment – Karlyn Schmidt – she wished to discuss the tank being at the Fire Department. Mike stated that this was just a discussion and no decision has been made. We will continue to have the fire department and the ambulance get their fuel from the Town Garage and keep track of the fuel used.
5. Emergency Management Update – Jenn stated that 29 positive cases in Washington County, just under 24,000 to date. Seven Day positivity is still good. Cases in Cabot remain at 19. Vermont leads the country in vaccinations and because of this we have moved to stage 3. One un-vaccinated person in an area of 50' and 300 people are now allowed. If fully vaccinated, there is no requirement for facial coverings. However, businesses are still being cautious. What the Stage 3 does not mean that they are only vaccinated by one strain, and does not cover other variants. Kathleen wanted to know about lifting the mask restriction for outdoor story hour. Jenn stated that it could be possible. It still depends on the group vaccination. Outdoors you can have 900 people – still want social distancing outside with caution. Kathleen stated that she does not plan on lifting the ban on mask mandate for inside the library. Fred had a question about vaccines for the variances. Jenn said there is not enough information. Matt wanted to know about 4th of July parades. Jenn stated the Governor is still not recommending parades. Ruth stated it is important to remember that the vaccine can be a fooler. We won't know for another six months about antibodies.
6. Cynthia Stuart – Masonic Hall – Next Step – Mike and Cynthia had a conversation about selling the Masonic Hall and wanted to sell it to Faith in Action. Cynthia spoke about the support and having FIA own the building. She would like to have some time for fund raising and possible appraisal. Mike said that we could put something together as to what the Town has spent on the property. Cynthia and the board could talk about a timeframe for meeting and would ask that the rent not be increased for the upcoming contract. We will put the contract for Faith in Action on June 1 meeting.
7. Ride the Ridges, September 12, 2021 – Is wishing approval from the Select Board – Mark Christensen thank the board for all the meetings that the SB attends. Ride the Ridges is an event that will be on Sunday, September 12 with the last ride we made about \$12,000. Started having this event since 2013 with missing only 2020 and would like to have it this year. They would follow all of the orders from the Governor and any that the SB would set up. They would require vaccinations for all riders. The riders are staggered in order to be spread out, with food at the end, possibly wood fired pizza with taking the plate with goodies and go. They do need to get their registrations going ASAP, with registering on line with notice that it may be cancelled due to the circumstances. Matt – how many riders participate. Mark said there were about 180 riders spread out over four hours. Matt – do they congregate in Town? Mark said they would eliminate the people gathering. Matt wanted to know when he would need to know. Mark said that it would be good tonight. Jenn – the staggering of the riders, food to go, the way things looking right now, requiring proof of vaccination. But caution asking people certain health issues including vaccinations as this is under the HIPPA restrictions. Fred asked Jenn if she saw any restrictions. Jenn – thought it would be good to have them come back in mid-summer to the Select Board to review. Mike wanted to know if there any other biking activities throughout the state. Mark said there have been some other rides. Mike motioned that the Ride the Ridges would comply with the governor's orders and dependent on changes in the pandemic. A motion was made by Ian and a second by Fred to approve the Ride the Ridges for 2021. Motion carried by roll call.
8. EV Station Update – Jim Wolynetz give a brief update. He doesn't have anything new. He is still looking on numbers from Aaron. Ian will check with Aaron regarding the pricing.
9. Washington Electric Permit for Right of Way Permit West Hill Pond. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Matt to approve the Right of Way. Motion carried by roll call.

10. Review of Budget to date – Mike asked the Board to look it over and follow up on the budget at the next meeting.
11. Steve Cox – Beaver Prevention – dropped off information on Beaver Culverts. Ian has some posts and Steve and Ian can volunteer to do install this fencing and hope it works. Mike suggested that behind Blanche Lamore’s home.
12. Water/Wastewater
 - a. Discuss needs of Wastewater Building and pumps along with the water pumps – Betty will send the information for the wastewater and water pumps to the SB. This would be something to consider with the American Recovery Act. We have no contingency fund for this. Ian stated that we need to set aside a contingency fund from what we collect. Mike indicated that we just raised the fees as of July 1 by \$25.00 to just meet the current expenses.
 - b. Other Business – There was no other business.
13. Highway
 - a. Ian – Update from Highway:
 1. Aldo informed him that they will finish up Ducharme Road today.
 2. He has not heard from Nortrax, and suggested that we rent a grader from Marshfield and hire one of their highway crew to run it. To rent one will cost \$2,800/week (\$70 an hour). We do not need a grader this week and Ian will put something on PPF to advise people of the situation. Ruth was wondering about renting from Cat. Even if we do rent a grader and furnish a man to do for about \$95/hour and not by week. Need to prioritize what we need graded over a period of time. Matt – how many hours would we need to grade the roads. Aldo thought it would be about a week with real good weather. The transmission will be approximately \$40,000-\$50,000. Ian suggested that we have more in the budget for breakdowns. Mike asked if we are planning to talk with John Deere to give us some slack on this. Fred wanted to know about the records and that they have not had anything like this happen before. Ian stated he thought Aldo was going to talk with them regarding this.
 3. They will replace a culvert on Churchill road on Thursday 8-noon
 4. They will start sweeping.
 5. We are still waiting to hear from McLeod’s regarding the frame. There is a chance to put Rusty’s truck on Dave’s truck to make one truck and consider looking at a new truck to replace Rusty’s truck as it is getting old.
 6. Aldo is taking his test on June 1. The electric brake box on the truck. Could he bring it down to McLeod’s to check it out?
 7. Ruth wanted to know if we have checked our insurance for covering repairs. She suggested a place in St. Johnsbury for checking the frame and Ian will check into this.
 - b. Other business – There was no other business.
14. Town Clerk’s Office
 - a. Orders – We will need to have each SB come in and sign the orders.
 - b. Update on Emergency Health Order – it is a difficult situation, but we still need to pursue this for the safety of the neighbors and the Town. Betty came up with a few suggestions and will pursue them.
 - c. Common – open for Community Lawn Sale in June and someone suggested that we add a farmer’s market and Town wide yard sale
 - d. Other business - no other business
15. Other Business – There was no other business.
16. Adjourn – A motion was made by Matt with a second by Fred that we adjourn. Motion carried by roll call. We adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer