

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Those present: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter, Frank Kampf, Irv Robbins, Aldo Nunn, Marcie Martin; via zoom: Matt Nally, Jenn Miner, Beth Wade, Jeanne Johnson, Kris Schmidt, Lisa Olson, Gary Gulka

1. Call meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:00 P.M.
2. Approve Agenda – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Matt. Motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes from Budget Meeting, December 13 and SB Minutes from December 14, 2021 – a motion was made with correcting the numbering on the SB Minutes – Mike, Fred – motion carried.
4. Public Comment –
 - a. Irv was hoping that we put some money in the budget for Class IV roads. Mike said that we were going to do an assessment of the Class IV roads. We are not putting money in this year; we need a plan to do this. Ian will work with Irv regarding this. Irv stated that he is not happy with this. Money has always been tight and he understands this. With Jeanne Johnson’s help to see what the reduction of taxes in 2019 and applying that to the roads. The people on Class IV roads would be paying for their roads. The Town bought an excavator and now don’t have time to work on the Class IV roads. Take that small percentage in 2019 and apply it to the budget for Class IV roads. He is opposed to paying taxes to having it going to a “slush fund” Mike said from the Board’s perspective they will work on a plan to put together. Irv does not feel he is being treated fairly. He is not expecting the town crew to do this. Irv wanted to know what the rest of the Board’s perspective. Fred said that he agrees that we need to have a plan. Irv stated that Charlie and Dave use to grade it every year. Aldo said that the York rake they used was sold with the tractor.
 - b. Marcie - In 2019 about the same time of year they had problems with the system. At that time they put a new switch in the box – they are now experiencing the same problem as in 2019. She was told that the Town had to take care of the sewer problems and the box on the trailer as there is nothing in writing that the homeowner is responsible. Mike stated that it is not the town property. The store has the same wastewater control pump and they pay for any upkeep. Matt wanted to know what we need to get it fixed. We will look back at the minutes. It is at the blue trailer. We will work on a solution and get back to Marcie.
2. Emergency Management Update – there were 1,700 new cases – 784 in Washington County. Hospital numbers are up. Over the past 7 days – Cabot going up slightly to 55 cases. Mike wanted to know regarding the Town Meeting – what would you recommend in person? Jenn stated she would recommend absentee ballots instead of an in-person Town Meeting. New variant is causing some problems. She has not heard from anything yet regarding other Towns. Matt – are they drilling down on new cases – are they wearing masks diligently. She has not seen anything on this. She is looking for the Town – are they getting the new variants – vaccinated and unvaccinated. Some of the vaccinations may be effective on the new variants.
3. Approve Articles for Warning –
 - a. Conservation – puts forth an article each year. We have had it on the warning for 6 years. Special projects related to activities. Two years back was supported by the voters by at least 75%. It is the same article each year.
 - b. Article to approve Abenaki access to Town Forest – Gwen Hallsmith called in earlier and went through the petition process – it will go on the warning.
 - c. Parking Policy to be added to Zoning Regulations – SB and DRB – ask Brittany to clean up the parking. Asking SB that will allow to revise the terminology. As of now anything commercial will have to go through the DRB, and Faith in Action parking and clean that up a bit.
 - d. Town Plan amendment to include Map needs to be amended to have a map that was missed originally when we updated the Town Plan to have a village center designation – gives a benefit for commercial designation and also if apply for a municipal planning grant, and if we have this designation it would put us ahead of other municipalities that do not have this designation. This year the designation expires and in order to renew the Center Designation we just have to add map indicating this designation.
 - e. Typographical and Terminology Corrections to Zoning Plan – basic housekeeping. As we go through the zoning regulations it states that some zoning questions would go to the ZBA (Zoning Board of Adjustment), this is now the DRB (Development Review Board) and would like to change this throughout the Zoning Plan. Basically we want to ask the Town to allow us to make the typographical corrections (such as spelling errors, punctuation, etc. Brittany will be working on the zoning regulations. Jenn will write up something regarding this for the warrant.

Mike stated that need a motion to approve the 5 items to go on the warning – Mike motioned to approve these five items with a second by Fred. Motion carried.

4. Water/Wastewater
 - a. Approve purchase of pump for Jug Brook Road with ARPA funds. It was necessary to purchase a pump for the Jug Brook Road. A motion was made by Fred to approve this with a second by Matt. Motion carried.
 - b. Other Business – there was no other business.

5. Highway
 - a. Ian – Update from Highway – Aldo said he had nothing to report and everything seems to be going okay. Matt thanked the road crew for all they have done.
 - b. Update on bids for snow removal – bid. We received one bid. Mike stated that he would recuse himself. Matt wanted to know before we vote on this is what is expected of the FD for the fire hydrants. We will defer to next SB meeting. Betty will contact the fire department for their thoughts on this and report back next meeting.
 - c. Other business – Ian had a woman contact him about loading school busses on the Common Road (the one that loops around the Common). She wants to know if or how we could close that road for the times of loading busses in the morning and afternoon for the next school year. Not sure if that has ever been done or needs to be done. It is a public road so for safety sake, it might be a good idea. Aldo asked why don't they pick them up at the school. If the school bus has their stop signs off, the road is closed. Matt stated State Statute is clear what about school bus loading or unloading – if red lights are on that should shut down the road. It would get a little sticky if we open this to another way. Irv wanted to make sure it was safer for the children. Can't the school handle this? Frank said from his experience they used to do it years ago in front of the school and he doesn't know why it was changed.

6. Town Clerk's Office -
 - a. Orders - they have been signed.
 - b. Town Report Dedication we are working on this.
 - c. Richard Sheiber wondered why the meetings are not on the front page. We stated that they are the calendar, just to click on this.

7. Adjourn – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Matt. Motion carried. We adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer