

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, May 16, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

1. The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. to discuss proposed signage across from Bobby's Store. Discussion was about where to put the signage for businesses and to make it more attractive. Along with Sandy's suggestions, Fred suggested that we have the signage over on the Common. RD thought of some type of sculpture by the electric pole. Michelle suggested that we remove the flower bed as it is destroyed every winter by plowing. Sandy must submit a grant request study by June 1. She will proceed with this to find out if we are eligible. We then went back for the 6:00 p.m. regular selectboard meeting.
2. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mike Hogan.
3. Approve Agenda – a motion was made by Fred with a second by RD, motion carried.
4. Approve Minutes from the May 2, 2023, meeting – a motion was made by Fred with a second by RD. Motion carried.
5. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
6. Update on CV Fiber rental of Sawmill Property (Recycle Building) and possible action. RD visited the property with Sid and then with CV Fiber. There is a 42x17 space that would be useful for storing fiber optic cable. It would be about 714 square feet. Janelle Smith from CVF, she wanted to know if it would be available and how much it would cost. They would also need to bring their own equipment to unload. They are also interested in the asphalt area for storage. RD's recommendation is \$5.00 sq.ft. which would come to \$5,735 per month for the duration of 2023, possibly longer. Karen wanted to know about any liabilities we would be liable for renting the space. We do carry insurance for the building, but they would need to provide rental insurance. RD will make a proposal to CV Fiber and suggested we do less for the outside storage. The FD is also looking for some storage space.
7. Update on new website – Karen gave an overview of the need for a new website in which we have a committee of 8 to design the website created by Seth O'Brien. The rollout is planned for May 22. There is a one-month period to see if there are any improvements needed. She wanted to thank the group, Cameron North, Mike Hogan, Lori Augustiniak, Dana Robinson, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter, and Seth O'Brien. Seth then showed the new website to everyone. The overall purpose is to make information readily available and simple and uncluttered. It will also be ADA Accessible. Karen explained that the Website Committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis. CCA will be working on the business directory. RD suggested that the Zoom meeting information should include the phone number to be able to call in. What about listing names for Listers, Zoning Administrator. He also wanted to know if land records could be added. No, as there is a link to Record Hub and sign anyone can sign up for an account. Other documents could be digitized. Seth wanted to emphasize feedback is important. It is completely usable on all types of devices. You can subscribe to any of the links. Mike discussed contact information: should we have one phone number and one email for SB. When our numbers and emails were published all of us received fishing and scams. Michelle will check with Rural Solutions to see if we can set something up for one email address for SB members. Cell phones can be scammed. Seth wanted to thank the group for the input received from the committee.
8. Washington Electric Easement – Dubray Road - David Eister has been trying to work with one of our neighbors to get power down to the end of Dubray Road for property owners. Patricia and Steve Taggart said they have no objection along with adjoining neighbors. Christopher Jennings objected to this as he does not want to see the polls. The polls are in the Town right of way and do not land on Chris's property. The alternative becomes quite expensive. The SB will walk Dubray Road property and the Walbridge property (to throw up a road) at 5 pm on June 6, prior to the Hearing and SB meeting that evening. The interested parties will be there also. We will defer to the next meeting until June 6 meeting. David mentioned this is the 3rd time we have come to the SB trying to find a way to accommodate this work this out.
9. Grand List Extension – Jeanne asked for an extension for the grand list. It now only requires one signature. A motion was made by RD with a second by Skip, motion carried. She also advised that reappraisal may be moving to the State Tax Department.
10. Update on Town Web Site with Roll Out Plan – combined with #7.
11. Discussion and Approval of Traffic Ordinance – We eliminated the list of intersections for stop signs. The first thing we need to do is to repeal the existing Traffic Ordinance – A motion was made by Fred with a second by RD, motion carried. RD then moved that we adopt new Traffic Ordinance with a second by Fred, motion carried. Chip Taylor will get a copy.
12. Water/Wastewater
 - a. Update on H2O Employees – Jefferson Tolman. There will be staffing changes on July 1. The St. Johnsbury wastewater and water system are going to manage their own facilities and asked that Jim and Graham stay with them and they will no longer be employed by H2O. Kelly Davis, Roger Sheldon, and Dan Copp will oversee our system. They are working to make this a smooth transition. They are all competent and certified and they are interviewing one more person for the vacant position. Mike would like to see a quarterly written report. Jefferson said he will do this. He also stated that our wastewater plant is aging and will require some updates. Roger Sheldon and Dan Copp will present the CPI adjustments on June 6. RD was concerned about how much capacity we have. Jefferson will get the information.
 - b. Other Business – there was no other business.

13. Highway

- a. Update on roads – everyone appreciated the post. Whittier Hill will be closed one-half day on Wednesday to replace the culvert. After that grading will begin possibly on Thursday. Last winter East Montpelier used a substance that made the salt stay on the roads better, it was good until -17 below. Karen wanted to know if they did a cost metric. Sid said that he discussed briefly, and it would be a savings because crew would not have to go out on each snow. She also asked about environmental issues. Sid talked to them shortly and did not get all the information but will try to get it. East Montpelier offered that if we brought a truck of salt, they would spray it for us to try it. Eastern Ware Parts carbide bits found they have a better way which will drop maintenance on the grader. A set for a grader is \$700 but could last longer.
- b. Town Crew position. There have been no applicants. It is difficult because towns and truck drivers are in big demand right now. The biggest thing is the CDL. You must go through the class which is between \$6-7,000 for 6 weeks. If we hire someone and offer to pay for the CDL, the person will sign an agreement to work for 3 years. Should we be offering something like this for future discussion. We would possibly have them work 5 hours a day and then the rest of the day could be the class time and pay them for this. We could possibly do something as we do have some money that was intended for the RC position. Sid is interested in this process. Sid could do a new job description and we could advertise again.
- c. Michelle Tetreault asked about the driveway to her daughter's house, but it is also used by the water department for Bond Hill and who is responsible for the upkeep. She wanted to know who owns the driveway. Michelle could not find who owned the driveway. Since we use it, it should be fixed. Sid will put it on his list.
- d. Dan Dunham is working on a price for a new salt shed.
- e. RD wanted to know when the recycle area could be cleared. Sid said it would be possibly next week.
- f. Other business – there was no other business.

14. Town Clerk's Office

- a. Orders - have been signed.
- b. The Den has a request for a liquor license for outside consumption. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Karen, motion carried.
- c. Approval of Wastewater Loan – This has been approved and just needs to be signed. It was signed and Betty will check about getting a report from Dufresne Engineering.
- d. Other business - Bylaws of FD – bring us up to speed with the current regulations and more organized and better flow. We needed to have the SB approval as we are part of the municipality. They are dissolving the executive committee and switching to a five-member board and complying with open meeting laws. A motion was made by RD motion to approve the By-Laws with a second by Karen. Motion carried.
- e. Betty advised that we have been approved for the grant for a study of our buildings. This precedes the ability to be eligible for the larger grant for upgrades to our buildings. Heat pumps have made a difference. RD would like to know about any cost savings in oil and electricity.

15. Other Business

- a. The Cemetery will be working on putting the fences back up.
- b. Melvin did put some money in a CD with KeyBank and left some money out to do the fencing and other needs for the cemeteries. He has heard nothing from Edward Jones.
- c. We would like to have Craig from CCIF and other committees on a quarterly basis.
- d. Tim Gochey – Now that we rent the field, he would like to have additional mowing and trimming done. We will contact the maintenance people regarding this. We do weed whack by the river once a year.
- e. The Willey Building Committee has set the date of October 14 for the 100-year anniversary celebration, details will follow.

16. Adjourn – a motion was made by Fred with a second by RD to adjourn. Motion carried. We adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer