

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

Those present: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Karen Larsen, R. D. Eno, Skip Bothfeld, Sid Griggs, Dana Glazier, Tyler Billings-Lee Frank Kampf, Jenne Minor, Ruth Goodrich, Glenn Goodrich, Elizabeth Vitale, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter, Leonia Pike, via zoom: Kris Schmitt, Rodger Sheldon, Heather Winner, 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 Fred with a second by RD. Mike would like to add Hazard Mitigation Plan and Sawmill Road under other business.
3. Approval of Minutes from February 6 Selectboard Meeting – A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred. Karen stated there were a few changes: Item 6 – planning around eclipse with Jenn as EMC, along with Ruth and Dean. #8 – Laura McCaffrey came from VT Afterschool to discuss grants. The rec field has 4 grants to look at. 10.c. choose the new PVR instead of a rebuilt for \$23,000. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment – Dana Glazier – flood related would like to suggest that we name the tributaries. The Flood Resiliency Task Force may do something. Dana said they are not interested. It has been a topic of discussion. RD suggested that he keep in touch with Gary Gulka on this.
5. Authorization of Chair of the SB to have sign for the Town any and all documents related to sale of Masonic Hall to Neighbors In Action A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred – motion carried.
6. Preparation for Informational Hearing There was no discussion on this.
7. Highway Updates – getting ready for the next mud season!
8. Tyler Billings – FEMA Mitigation Projects – reviewed the permitting and easement process that we need to go through. We will probably have to ask for an extension which should no problem with this. Mike asked Tyler to prioritize the sites. The upper culvert and lower culvert, Blodgett Road are very similar structure. Most straight forward. Menard Road – would be difficult to do a bypass road. Leave bridge in place, build culvert, do it at night, or close for about ½ hour. Mack Mountain, preliminary looks – with Doug, If available to close the road would be the best, can build a bypass road on lower road. Ruth suggested possibly a class 4 road with Matt Lindstrom. Glenn – what is the availability structures – metal – nationwide structure 6-8 weeks. Box culverts – 3-4 months. Timeline – easement dependent – getting them sooner than later. Permitting 2-3 months, wait to talk with landowners first. Late this year. FEMA does allow us to cluster these together. Combine upper and lower culverts and Blodgett Road. Menard and Mack Mountain together. We have several SB meetings before we go out to bid. Need to apply with Army Corp. Karen wanted to know if we must give back the temporary bridge on Menard Road. Tyler stated that we must give it back. On agenda – for the next meeting on March 12 (due to the Town Meeting being on March 5). Tyler will be putting together a contract book which will have a lot of information that will help with the bids, etc. Has some sketches that will be available in the Town Clerk’s Office.
9. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Update from Rodger Sheldon, H2O Innovations – update the PRV is going in tomorrow on Wednesday and have the flow test early afternoon. We also reviewed the pump stations and will have a detailed report on the pump stations Fred has been working with Rodger on this 25-year plant and there will be capital expenses – around \$50,000. Mike would like to consider a WW/water operator in the plant in addition to the H2O. Many things were not taken care of and suggest a person 30-32 hours per week. Fred stated it is difficult to keep up with it. Right now, it is a maintenance nightmare – need to shut down the entire system to work on it. Rodger is working on a way to work one section at a time. Fred stated that Middlebury is having water problems consistently. Right now, water is eating up the electrical panels. Rodger – biggest issue is to be there more, and he is working on this. Meeting with Paul Stattio – flushing program for the water system. Lot of the equipment is outdated. Do we have remote monitoring. They are working on this. They can look at the plant but can’t control it from the phones. We need to keep talking about this.
 - b. Other Business John Smyers – had a blockage at the toilet at the church – run an auger all the way to the town line – pump station. Rodgr assured that it has nothing to do with the pump station. May have to run a camera on this. The pump station is running, and if there is a decrease in the pump station and we would have more people complaining.

c. Dean Deasy – flow test was good, and we will be lifting the the bags on the hydrants.

10. Town Clerks Office

- a. Orders - they were signed.
- b. Renewed Liquor License Applications - Searles Village Store, Inc (2) – 2nd class A motion was made by Karen with a second by Mike. Motion carried.
- c. Additional line of Credit – We need another \$1,000,000 for flood related payments. Betty did contact three banks: Union Bank offered a 3.50% interest with time frame to be determined. CNB offered a 3.35% interest, and Passumpsic did not respond with an interest rate as they had quite a few more questions. Karen wondered if we could have the 3 loans that we presently have into one with the interest rate from the first loan. The only way to do this is to refinance with the current interest rate. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip to accept CNB for this loan, motion carried. RD did not vote on this as he was dealing with the Church wastewater problem.
- d. Other business – there was no other business.

11. Other Business

Local Hazard Mitigation - at the Planning Commission there were some edits. Keith Cubbon has sent the draft and will be sent to the SB and inform people that will be on the website. We are looking to approve it at the next SB meeting. Clark Sawmill – working with attorneys and CVRPC and hopefully complete in 24 or 25.

12. Executive Session – Real Estate Matter – Neighbors In Action - Motion to go into ES - A motion was made by Fred, with a second by Karen. Motion carried. We went into ES at 6:54 p.m. and came out at 7:02 pm. No decisions were made.

13. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Mike, motion carried. We adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer