

Selectboard Meeting October 22, 2019

Board members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Lauri Berkenkamp

Others present: Gil Robertson, Jennifer Brown for The Herald of Randolph, Lisa Bragg, Jon MacKinnon, Tim Denny, Dr. H. Bone

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

Citizen Concerns

- Someone dumped a load of tires and other garbage at the end of a driveway on Old City Falls Road. The sheriff was called to investigate and Lisa Bragg called Durkee Rubbish Removal to take it away.
- Carol Bushway requested a load of gravel to be put in the parking lot of the fire department substation. Pat Kelly will talk to the fire department about the problem.
- Ann McPhail called and said she thought her culvert was crushed during the paving process. Road crew investigated it and saw no evidence of damage. Brian will talk to Ann.

Town Highways and Equipment Update

- Highway Department Projects: Work is going well. Not many projects are left, but they didn't get as many culverts completed as they hoped. The crew will do more culverts next year.
- Kendall – Highway Access Permit: The permit was reviewed by Jon MacKinnon. Board moved, seconded, and approved the permit.
- Timesheet Project complete and ready for reporting: all the time sheets have been collated and coded per activity so the board can see where the road crew has spent its time over the past several years. This will be especially helpful as we inventory roads in town and when we apply for FEMA reimbursement.
- 2019 budget to actual: We are at the limit of the road budget for special projects at this time but have accomplished almost all of the projects we budgeted for in 2019.

Correspondence

- Barbara and Wally Smith, Pocket Park revenue: Toni spoke with Barbara, and will meet with Barbara and Wally regarding turning over finances to Lisa Bragg, town treasurer, to keep the accounting accurate.
- Chris Bump, Strafford VT132 Work Outside of the ROW 2017 Storm Event: board acknowledged receipt of email. We didn't go out of the right of way.
- Bob Johnston, RE: Strafford Historic Preservation Commission update and recommendations: Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence. Pat and Kate will meet with Bob Johnston to discuss.
- John Echeverria, RE: Code of America information: Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence.

- VLCT, VLCT 2019 Compensation & Benefits Survey Report: Your Online Access. Board acknowledged receipt of the report. It is available for public viewing and is also available online.
- Michael Sacca, RE: 4-Town application to the Working Communities Challenge: Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence. No action is required for now.
- Email Mickey Prescott RE: ROW issue: Praise for Regina and Lisa regarding a right of way issue. Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence and agreed that Lisa and Regina are great!
- Approve Minutes of October 9th regular meeting

Board moved, seconded, and approved the minutes of October 9.

Contiguous Property Letter Review

Tim Denny of the listers came before the board to discuss the new contiguous property definitions. These properties include adjacent properties and those divided by roads, streams, or railroads that are owned by the same person. Two or more contiguous properties make up a parcel when it is owned by the same owner. Several contiguous properties in town were not assessed properly, and the listers have decided to maintain one aspect of its previous policy: to combine all the acreage of the property as one parcel to determine land value. But the value of a house site on an inactive property (the property that didn't have a structure on it) wasn't being assessed properly. The Listers are now assessing these inactive sites as a property with a building site. This will likely result in an increase in taxes for people who hold contiguous properties. The Listers have currently identified about 30 properties in town that will be affected. The board will review the letter and respond to Tim with suggested edits

Performance Evaluation Format

This will be moved to the next meeting after Lauri talks with the HR person at VLCTD

2020 Benefit Credit

Town gives all employees a benefit credit based on the number of insured in their household. Board moved, seconded, and approved a 4 percent increase in the town employees' benefit credit for FY2020.

Moving general reserve funds to the Trustees of Public Funds

Toni will investigate further what the protocol and process should be regarding creating de facto reserve funds and how they should be managed.

Accounting Policy for handling revenue and expenses pertaining to town activities such as summer camps by the Recreation Board and Pocket Park.

The board reminds all organizations connected to the town that they must have all revenues and expenses be submitted to and approved by the board. This is by state statute.

Town Office Repairs– work on FAQ answers and distribution plan. Review Answers

Board members have worked on editing the document that includes questions and answers; Kate has done a preliminary layout for a mailing piece that will be sent to all townspeople that will include the FAQs and preliminary architectural drawings. The board will move forward on completing the mailing.

Other

Liaison Updates

No liaison updates

Asset Management of Paved Roads

Project is ongoing

Board tour of Mine, 10/21/19, 4pm

Some board members took a tour of the mine. EPA will leave the gates; they would like the gates closed so that the vegetation they planted can take hold. By next summer they will open it up. Board agreed to close the gates on their recommendation for another season. The EPA also agreed to put a fence around the settling ponds.

Letters to owners of excessively barking dogs.

Toni signed a letter to all owners who have had complaints lodged against them along with a copy of the dog ordinance.

New signs

Town received new 911 numbers; anyone who had their address number changed and come pick them up at the town office.

No Other Business

Please note the next selectboard meeting will be held on November 13.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Berkenkamp

Recording Secretary