

Selectboard Meeting January 23, 2019

Members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, John Freitag
Others present: Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk, Nellie Pennington, Auditor, Gil Robertson,
Rocky Fuller, Town House Advisory Group Chair (by speaker phone) and Hambone, Kate's lonely dog.

Meeting was called to order at 6pm by Chair Toni Pippy

Citizens' concerns

There were no citizens' concerns

Highways and equipment update

As Road Foreman/Public Works Supervisor Jon MacKinnon has been extremely straight out dealing with winter weather and roads and did not come in as another storm is expected tonight. Selectboard liaison to highway dept. Brian Johnson gave the update.

One truck currently out, all other equipment good. In lieu of vacancy on road crew, Jon has had private contractors supplement the road crew during the last large snowfall. Board members have been getting reports that people are very appreciative of work the road crew is doing in often difficult conditions. The Selectboard too is very appreciative of the great work being done by Jon, Danny and P.D.

Brian reported that contractor E.J. Thorp has a new snow blower for doing the sidewalks and it seems to be doing well.

There is an effort to clean out the Town shed at the Park and Ride so the new tractor and mower can be stored there. John F. will check with cemetery commissioners regarding the old fence currently there.

Approve Minutes of January 9th and January 16. The January 9th meeting minutes were amended to have more detail regarding the Municipal Building before being approved. The January 16 meeting was approved with no changes being made.

Correspondence

Letter from Dr. Hug's lawyer regarding right of way in front of his house. John F. will follow up with Town Attorney Paul Gillies.

Town House Advisory Group Update

Due to roads icing up, Rocky Fuller called in to say he could not make the meeting and gave the Board and update on the Town House Advisory Group's plans and budget request. He reported spire project successfully completed (except for some minor details) and that it came in under budget. They are planning a thank you event this June for the many contributors and donors that made this work possible. The Selectboard expressed appreciation for all this organization has done and continues to do on this town building of national importance. The Selectboard will work on incorporating into the budget what it can of the requests.

2018 Budget Update

Auditor Nellie Pennington, Town Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Bragg, and Selectboard finance expert Toni Pippy presented the Board with the final figures for 2018 for review. Both the General Fund and Highway Fund came in under budget.

2019 Budget

The Selectboard reviewed the draft budget prepared by Toni, with advice from Nellie and Lisa. The draft budget was cut back to best meet priorities while limiting the increase to 2.8% which is the same 2019 cost

of living increase calculated for social security recipients. This will necessitate a roughly 1.8 cent increase in the town tax rate. The Board gave preliminary approval to this budget which will be reviewed and have final approval at a Special Meeting to be held on Tuesday January 29 at 6pm at the Town Office.

2018 Selectboard Report for the Town Report

A draft report was reviewed and approved. Some additions will need to be made regarding the budget and final approval will take place at the Special Meeting on January 29.

Warning for Town Meeting

A draft of the Warning prepared by Lisa Bragg was reviewed by the Board. Final approval will take place at the January 29th Special Meeting.

Gas Tax Revenue Sharing Proposal

The Selectboard approved exploring with other towns and cities a revenue sharing proposal which would have portion of the state gas tax go directly back to towns to use on road and bridge projects of their choosing.

General

The Board approved and signed a liquor license for Coburn's Store

The Board signed the Vermont Certificate of Highway Mileage with no changes from previous years.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Freitag, filling in for Recording Clerk Lauri Berkenkamp