

Selectboard Meeting April 3, 2019

Board members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp

Others present:

John Echeverria, George Spaneas, BJ Miller, Gil Robertson, Amber Wylie, Ann MacPhail, Bill Thompson, Jon MacKinnon, Therese Linehan

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Citizens Concerns:

There were no citizens' concerns

Highways and Equipment:

Crew is handling mud season well; equipment is in good shape.

FY 21 Capital projects prioritization by TRORC: John Echeverria is new member of that board.

Board will discuss his role and how the town can get on the priority list at a future meeting.

Northern Borders Commission Infrastructure grant: John Freitag put in a preliminary grant request for \$400,000. The town would need to provide \$80,000 to meet the grant requirements. Full grant application is due May 10. RSG, a consulting firm, has offered to help work on the grant at no charge to the town. Board voted to move forward on the grant, and voted to hold off on drainage at the Town Clerks Office and electrical infrastructure work on the Common until whether or not we know if we get the grant. Northern Border Grants are awarded on August 2.

Draft paved roads inventory, maintenance to review: Todd Eaton from State drove around with Toni and Brian to assess roads. He recommended that the town have an assessment plan and capital improvement plan regarding all paved roads. Todd emphasized the necessity of a roads assessment and have a plan. He has offered to help put the plan together with the road foreman. Recommended crack sealing current paved roads (as the town has planned). He also said the town shouldn't be relying on grants for paving. Based on the current paved road inventory, the town should budget at least \$80,000 more per year for pavement maintenance.

Discussion ensued regarding the Justin Morrill Highway and the poor condition of the road. The pavement on the road was ground up originally with the intention of being repaved. Many citizens commented on the condition of the road and implications for quality of life, real estate values, health, and farm products, and asked that the section of road be prioritized for paving—particularly since it is a main thoroughfare and the only way to get to Tunbridge. Toni said that it has cost \$45,000 to keep those 2 miles graded and maintained in the last 3 years.

John Freitag reminded all present that there is limited funding for paving, and it's likely that the town budget will need to be increased over the next few years to cover the costs for road

maintenance and improvement. A motion was made and seconded to use Justin Morrill Highway as the basis for the state paving grant. Four members of the board voted to approve the motion; John Freitag voted no.

Approve Minutes for March 20, 2019:

Meeting minutes were approved with the amendment that the board would make a decision on the project they would submit for the paving grant on April 3, not April 10.

Correspondence:

- Email from Ed Hathaway re: Public hearing Barrett Hall for Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. Toni will be following up on repairs to Tyson Bridge and will include the road foreman in the discussion.
- Email from Shawn Harlow re: Beth Preston as representative to the Upper Valley Ambulance Board. Board acknowledged receipt of email.
- Email from John Smelter re: dam inspection report. Board acknowledged receipt of email.
- Email from Barry North re: condition of Van Dyke Road. Board acknowledged receipt of email.
- Vt Superior Court, Environmental Decision re: variance appeal 2/20/19, decision of the Strafford Development Review Board. Board acknowledged receipt of email.

VCRD update:

More than 400 people have attended dinners and discussions at the community dinners. Big meeting to discuss the results and vote on priorities will be held April 25. Location TBD.

Appointments:

Recreation Board—no recommendations as yet

Upper Valley Ambulance—Beth Preston was approved as representative

Other:

Listers contiguous property letters went out. Listers will attend the next board meeting to keep the board informed of their progress.

LEMP is due May 1. Lauri will work with Bill Burden to complete.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauri Berkenkamp
Recording Clerk