

Selectboard Meeting April 24, 2019

Members present: Lauri Berkenkamp, Brian Johnson, Toni Pippy, and Kate Siepmann.

Others present: Lisa Bragg, Gil Robertson, Jon MacKinnon, Charlotte Faccio, PD Hardy, Kelly Hull

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Citizens Concerns:

Charlotte Faccio came to the board with concerns about the culvert on Brook Road above their house that periodically floods their barn. Representatives from the town in past years had told her it would be taken care of, but nothing has been done. Discussion ensued regarding whether this issue is a town road issue or a property owner issue. Jon MacKinnon suggested that this has happened for many years. The selectboard noted that it can't mitigate issues that are occurring on private property. Charlotte also mentioned that the town has been diverting water that was running down the road into their pond. They do not want the town to divert the water from the road, since the pond is both overflowing and silting up. Toni will talk to Steve Willbanks, who was on the board at the time of the initial conversation, to learn what they past board had told the Faccios. Toni will follow up with Charlotte and Jon MacKinnon will contact a hydrologist to assess the situation.

Highways and Equipment:

Roads are drying but the town has received many reports of poor conditions. The town grader broke and so the town has rented one for a week. The road crew has been working hard to grade and repair all the roads in town. As the roads dry they will improve. The road crew appreciates townspeoples' patience and asks them to please limit the complaint calls—they are working as fast and hard as they can.

Flooding event: Bridge 23 probably won't pass as a FEMA event

Trail bridge over Tyson Road: washed out in the storm. The road foreman requests that the bridge not be rebuilt because debris gets caught in it and causes damage downstream. Toni will let the Conservation Commission know that they should not rebuild until the road foreman has spoken with the Army Corps of Engineers and the hydrologist for advice.

Northern Borders Infrastructure Grant: Toni spoke with Tim Tierney, NBRC Program Manager at the Agency. Right now there are 82 applications for the grant, and they have a total of \$3.4 million to disburse. Tim advised Toni NOT to apply for the grant at this time since it is highly unlikely we would receive anything. The board agreed to rethink and plan for the next year.

Asset Management of paved roads: Toni will consult with Todd Eaton of the State to create this.

Capital projects prioritization: Jon M. will talk with John Echeverria to identify Strafford projects to get on the list.

Approve Minutes of April 3, April 10 Hearing

Board voted to approve minutes of the April 3 meeting with the following amended text: “Toni said that it has cost \$45,000 to keep those 2 miles graded and maintained in the last 3 years. (To be clear: \$41,982 without mowing and \$48,527 with mowing of 3.3 miles in 2016 and 2.2 miles in 2017 and 2018).”

April 10 meeting minutes were acknowledged and will not be approved due to lack of quorum of board members present at the meeting and hearing.

Kelly Hull Mowing contract: Kelly said the clean up is very time consuming and it is not in his budget. Last few years the clean up has taken several people 3-4 days and a lot of equipment. His proposal to the town is that he would keep his mowing price the same, delete what he has for clean up, and then charge by the hour for clean up. He said he would charge a flat \$45 per hour per person for the job—the total would likely be \$2880. The board will talk to the school and preschool about sharing some of the costs of clean up for areas also used by them. The mowing contract is \$7245, and the proposed increase for clean up is \$2880. Board voted to approve the increase of the clean up portion of the contract from \$1,080 to \$2880.

Correspondence

Email from John Freitag re: resignation. Board acknowledges and accepts his resignation

Email from Bill Burden re: trailer and rubbish. Board acknowledges receipt of email

Email from Mike Hebb re: road mowers. Board acknowledges receipt of email; Lisa will contact Mike to see if he could mark where these trees are.

Email from Bob Johnston re: Historic Preservation Commission Board acknowledges receipt of email

Emails from Ed Hathaway re: Mine Road traffic restrictions and Stanley property and Tyson Bridge meeting. Board acknowledges receipt of email. Road foreman will meet with Ed Hathaway regarding the bridge.

Email from Shannon Varley re: dog bite. Board acknowledges receipt of email. Janet Hardy investigated the incident; this dog has been returned to the dog rescue facility it came from.

Email from Christine Bailey-Kellogg for Amelia Bailey-Kellogg re: Girl Scout project at Old City Falls park. Board acknowledges receipt of email and forwarded to Conservation Commission

Selectboard member appointment to fill vacancy for remainder of the year

Following the advice and protocol outlined by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for replacing John Freitag, Kate wrote a notice of vacancy. The board voted to approve the notice.

Other

Liaison updates: Rec Board asked to Neal MacPhail to the board. Board voted to approve Neal MacPhail’s appointment.

Vermont Council on Rural Development meeting: meeting will be Thursday, April 25 in Tunbridge.

Endowment Funds move to Trustee of Public Funds: Town has closed the Morgan Stanley account and funds will be moved to the trustee of public funds.

LEMP: Board voted to adopt the 2019 Strafford Local Emergency Management Plan.

Rock Claim VLCT: Citizen made a report that a rock from a road crew member's truck broke her car window. Claim was submitted to VLCT.

No other business was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Lauri Berkenkamp
Recording Clerk**