

Selectboard Meeting January 2, 2019

Members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp
Others present: Lisa Bragg, Gil Robertson, Mike Scanlan, Bill Burden

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Citizen Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns

Town Highways and Equipment Update

Road foreman was not present and will update the board at the next meeting. John Freitag reported that the crews are out early to get the roads sanded. Lisa is researching funding options and will report back.

Approve Minutes of December 12

Minutes were approved.

Correspondence

Email re: National School Choice Week. Board acknowledged receipt of email.

Email re: Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District budget. Board acknowledged receipt of email. Proposed assessment for 2019 is the same as last year.

Email re: VT League of Cities and Towns insurance claim from Kawalec. Board acknowledged receipt of email.

Email re: Lebanon Recycling Users. Board acknowledged receipt of email and passed to Mike Scanlon of the recycling committee

Response to letter from Desmeules, Olmstead & Ostler re: Hug right of way

Board reached out to the town attorney regarding this issue. Based on his advice, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to proceed with the following: the board will hold a site visit on April 10 at 5 p.m., then hold a public hearing immediately afterward at the town office regarding the right of way.

Recycling Food scraps 2019, Mike Scanlan

Mike Scanlan from the Recycling Committee presented costs for 2018 recycling program. Total costs for 2018 were \$15,390.18. Costs rose \$3,725 from 2017 to 2018, primarily due to market charge increases. Mike calculated that the town paid about \$600 to have food scraps hauled away this year. The board agreed to continue the program for another year.

2018 Budget

Board reviewed the 2018 budget to determine outstanding items to be reconciled. Board will discuss road budget details with foreman at the next meeting.

2019 Budget

Toni presented a very preliminary draft budget for discussion. Some community service organizations haven't yet submitted budget requests. Board will plan to meet on January 16 and January 30 to focus exclusively on the 2019 budget.

Town Meeting March 5 deadlines

Warning needs to go out no later than February 3. Toni will coordinate with Eric Goodling of the school board regarding start times for Town Meeting, since the school board portion of the meeting will go before the town portion this year. Any voter-backed petitions must be submitted by January 17 to the town office.

General

Liaison updates: Kate S. discussed a committee meeting regarding upgrading and revitalizing the town office. The group has discussed plans with two architects. Board would like the plan and preliminary costs for the architect's services before moving forward and will review the proposal and costs and discuss it at the next board meeting.

Toni reported that the school sent out a letter from Greg Bagnato regarding the hire of a consultant to better understand why so many students are leaving the middle school.

Whitcomb Hill management plan: Nothing new to report.

LEMP Workshop: Lauri attended a writing workshop on the new Vermont Local Emergency Plan requirements. The town's current Local Emergency Operations Plan needs to be modified to adhere to the new guidelines in order to qualify for FEMA and VEM reimbursements. Bill Burden and Lauri will meet to update the plan, which is due to the state by May 1.

2018 Equalization Study: Board received this from the state. The common level of appraisal is 103.07 percent. No reappraisal is necessary at this time.

Vermont Council on Rural Development: Meeting of steering committee will be held on January 17. Toni and Kate will attend on behalf of the board.

Please note: If citizens have concerns, please send an email or letter—or attend a selectboard meeting to voice them so the board can address them directly.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.