

## UNAPPROVED

### SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 6, 2023

Prior to the meeting – Employee Review with Road Foreman, Lee Chamberlin.

This meeting was called to order by Zeke Goodband at 6:00 pm at the Town Office in Dummerston, Vermont.

**Members present:** Zeke Goodband, Maria Glabach, Lewis White, Todd Davidson, Alex Wilson

**Members absent:**

**Also present:** Lee Chamberlin, Mark Younger, Peter Kelleher-BCTV

#### **Minutes:**

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from August 23, 2023.

#### **Warrants:**

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to approve the payment of warrants 5 & 5P. Warrant 5 includes payment for the highway garage outside boiler for \$19,925.66 from ARPA Funds.

#### **ARPA Funding:**

Highway garage roof repair estimate – tabled, Lee is still waiting on a price. He has an appointment for Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Public Comments:**

Mark Younger discussed with the Board his building permit process. Mr. Younger felt that Todd should recuse himself as he is an abutting landowner. Todd disagreed as he is not part of the group appealing the permit. Mr. Younger is questioning the validity of the appeal application not being signed. Todd and Roger contacted VLCT after the meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, per state statute the appeal application does not need to be signed. Lewis felt Todd should have recused himself and Zeke felt he should have disclosed upfront that he was an abutter.

#### **Road Foreman's Report:**

The Board received a letter questioning the Right of way off West Street, is it a town road or was it ever thrown up. The Town considers this a Class 3 road. Lewis, Todd and Lee will look at it on Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board will consider the options at a future meeting.

State of VT Bridge Inspection Report – Lee reported everything checked out fine.

Alex has contacted the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Covered Bridge and is waiting for a reply.

VEM Storm Drains & Culvert Debris – Lee reported we are in good shape

VEM Tire Disposal Collection day survey – Lee may look into this.

Lee reported that one part-time person has gotten done. He thought this would be a hard position to fill unless they only want to plow a few storms when needed. No CDL is required.

Lewis mentioned the excessive truck traffic using West Street, through the Village, as a pass through due to the road work on Route 30. Lee was aware of this and has spoken with Marc Pickering with VT AOT. Marc will stop over and speak with the paving company.

The Road Crew has been working on culverts on Rice Farm Road to alleviate wash outs. Alex asked about plowing at the Nature Conservancy parking area on Rice Farm Road, Lee stated the Town does not plow the parking area.

Bazin Brothers will be crushing gravel.

The paperwork has been submitted for the Class Two Paving Grant for \$200,000.00. When received, \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 will be used to cover paving in the current fiscal year, next year funds will be used towards Miller Road and another section of East-West Road. The following year Middle Road.

Lee discussed with the Board the possibility of using ARPA funds for the Park Laughton Road structure. He estimates the project may be \$220,000.00. The permit has been submitted to ANR for review. Lee would like to put this out to bid this fall and schedule the work to be done next year. He doesn't want to go out to bid unless ARPA funds can be used. Grants are four years out and he would like to use grant funds for Leonard Road and Johnsons Curve Road. No decision was made. The Board would like to wait on ANR permitting and see how much the bids come in for.

*(moved up in the agenda from new business)*

**Correspondence for Information:**

Lewis spoke with the Sheriff's Dept. regarding questions he had with the July Stars Report. The GHS stands for Governors Highway System, these were grant hours. The Sheriff's Department will remove the two hours billed as Humane Society hours.

**Correspondence for Discussion and/or Action:**

Update regarding Salmon Brook erosion, Emergency Watershed Protection Program - The Board is waiting for the report. Todd will reach out to check on progress.

The Board did Lees employee review prior to this meeting and Todd will complete the paperwork for the Board to review at the next meeting. Zeke handed out Roger's review for the Board to review for next meeting.

The board received an email regarding trash at 3950 West River Road. Lewis and Todd looked at the property. This is not Town owned, it could be either the State of Vermont or unknown. Lee thought it was possibly the old route 30. Zeke will send a letter to the owner.

Alex asked Lee about a tour of the town roads. Todd would like to go as well. The three will coordinate a time.

**New Business:**

ARPA Updates & Discussion:

Highway Department request ARPA funds to cover Park Laughton Road structure. Lee estimated the cost at \$220,000.00. *(moved up to Road Foreman's report)*

The church asked about their request for funds to purchase a tent. Alex contacted the Fire Department, they are not interest in owning the tent, as they don't have the personnel to deal with it. Lewis spoke with the Community Center, they were going to reach out to various organizations in Town. No decision was made.

Maria will send out budget request to Town committees & commissions and ask that their requests be returned by October 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Board received a request from Landmark Trust USA for a letter of support for a grant application for remodeling Rudyard Kipling historical horse stable into a rental. Alex disclosed that he was on the Landmark Trust board, but was not currently.

On a motion by Alex and second from Lewis the Board voted 4-0 with Zeke abstaining to send a letter of support for the Landmark Trust grant application. Lewis will sign it and Alex will contact Susan McMahon at Landmark Trust.

On a motion by Lewis and second from Maria the Board voted 5-0 to approve the Errors & Omissions Certificate from the Listers.

*(the following item was added to the agenda at the start of the meeting)*

The Conservation Commission requested a letter of support from the Board for the Covered Bridge Step project. The letter will go to the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (WCNRCD). The WCNRCD is also requesting a signed 10 year Operations and Maintenance contract. At previous meetings the Conservation Commission has agreed to the maintenance of the steps. Both Maria and Lewis questioned signing the letter without see the maintenance contract.

On a motion by Alex and second from Todd the Board voted 3-2 with Maria and Lewis voting no, to approve signing the support letter. Lewis and Maria both would like to see more clarity.

**Unfinished Business:**

Alex reached out to VLCT regarding the Treasurers position. If no one runs for the elected position, then the Selectboard should appoint someone. They must be a town resident and can only fill the position until the next Town Meeting elections or a Special Meeting for elections. A bookkeeper can be hire, but only as support for an elected or appointed Treasurer.

To change the position from elected to appointed, the Board would have to place an article on the Town Meeting Warning for the voters to decide to make this change.

Alex will send the information he received from VLCT to the Board.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Lewis made the motion and second from Maria, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

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Approved

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Zeke Goodband, Chair

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Lewis White, Vice-Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Clerk