

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 22, 2023

The Board met with members of the Dummerston Community Center Board at 5:00 pm.
DCC Board Members Present: Ann Davis, Paul Chapman, Rick Davis, Jean Momaney, Randy Hickin, Lester Dunklee

Rick Davis gave an update on projects per the building inspection report. The hot water tanks and pressure tank are being done. The Fire Marshall did a walk through to inspect the fire alarms and suggested batteries for the exit signs. They will be working on getting estimates for the septic tank and drainage work. Rick will contact Alan McBean regarding the septic system. Another item they will be looking into is the well pump. The Community Center Board will increase their liability insurance coverage from one million to two million at a cost increase of about \$30.00 per year.

Zeke will get them a copy of the original electrical estimate. Also, what the cost of the Town's fire insurance coverage is. They have added new Board members and have formed sub-committees with non-voting members. Rick Davis suggested that rather than renewing the lease on a yearly basis, perhaps it could be a five year lease term instead. The two Boards will meet again in early May.

REGULAR MEETING

This meeting was called to order by Zeke Goodband at 6:05 pm at the Community Center in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members present: Zeke Goodband, Maria Glabach, David Baxendale, Alex Wilson

Members absent: Terry Chapman

Also present: Bill Schmidt, Catie Berg, Meg Lyons, Lynn Levine, Jarod Clark, Margaret Shugart, Jesse Wagner, Christina Geopp, John Anderson, Charlotte Neer-Annis, Rick Looman, Larry Pratt, BCTV

Minutes:

On a motion by David and second from Alex the Board voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from March 8, 2023.

Catie Berg with Dummerston Cares requested that the minutes note that the intent was for the last word on the Australian ballot advisory, non-binding resolution should have been forums rather than forms.

Warrants:

On a motion by David and second from Maria the Board voted 4-0 to approve the payment of warrants 19 & 19P.

ARPA Funding: None

Public Comments:

Margaret Shugart and Jarod Clark spoke to their desire to set up a Go-Fund Me account to build a capital fund for the Recreation Board’s ice rink. The Town Treasurer would keep the funds. There is a 2.9% fee, plus .30 per transaction. The Board had many questions and will look into VLCT opinion. This request was not made by the Recreation Board.

Bill Schmidt inquired as to where Dummerston Cares ARPA request for \$45,000.00 to start a fund stood. Zeke stated that it was on the back burner, as the Board was looking for ways to reduce the tax burden for all residents. The consensus of the Board is that they have been looking at ways to improve the Town’s infrastructure.

The Board had a lengthy discussion with Dummerston Cares regarding the Declaration of Inclusion which they requested be on the ballot for town meeting. They felt the Board should act on it and the consensus of the Board was that there was no higher authority the town residents. No action was taken on the matter.

Road Foreman’s Report:

FEMA update: Charlotte stated that the Town should be receiving the Category Z administrative cost of \$8,165, plus the State’s 5% which will be about \$17,500.

The road crew has been grading roads as they dry out. One of the trucks will need an axle costing \$7,000 to \$8,000. The new truck will need a new hydraulic pump. This will not be warranted as the problem was caused by the plow, which is considered external to the truck.

The old truck has sold and the \$25,000 proceeds will be put into the Capital Fund.

The crew worked diligently along with the power company during this past week’s storm. Marty Forrett, Emergency Management Director did a great job contacting many people to check in on them. The estimated cost of the storm for the Town is \$16,000, this does not meet the FEMA threshold.

The Board received the following outside boiler bids and Lee has reviewed them:

- Northern Outdoor Furnace’s \$19,925.66
- New England Outdoor Furnace’s \$24,043.00

On a motion by Maria and second from David the Board voted 4-0 to award the outside boiler for the Highway garage to Northern Outdoor Furnace’s in the amount of \$19,925.66

The Board received the following Covered Bridge oak decking bids and Lee has reviewed them:

- W.W. Building Supply (7500 board feet) \$25,000.00
- Perkins Home Center (7500 board feet) \$24,420.00
- Allard Lumber (7000 board feet) \$17,500.00

On a motion by Maria and second from David the Board voted 4-0 to award the Covered Bridge oak decking to Allard Lumber in the amount of \$17,500.00

Correspondence for Information: None

Correspondence for Discussion and/or Action: None

New Business:

ARPA Updates & Discussion: None

On a motion by Maria and second from David the Board voted 4-0 to make the following appointments:

Windham Regional Commission – Todd Davidson

Windham Solid Waste Management District Representative – Michelle Cherrier

Vermont Community Development Program – Jack Manix

Farmland Protection Committee – Noah Haskins, Diana Lischer, Jack Manix, Read Miller, Elizabeth Wood, & June Levinsohn

Energy Committee – Eric Lineback

DV Communications Union District – Eric Lineback

On a motion by Maria and second from Alex the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Jean Newell to the open Lister seat until Town Meeting 2024.

The Conservation Commission requested that the Board reconsider signing the zoning permit application regarding the proposed Covered Bridge step project. Maria would like to wait for the full Board to be present. Zeke was in favor of signing the permits. Zeke also stated that he spoke with Terry and she was not in favor of the project. There were questions regarding the Town's liability exposure. Zeke requested that the Conservation Commission send a memorandum of understanding to the Board that it is the Commission's intent to maintain and regularly monitor the steps, keep a log and submit it to the Board. Warning signs need to be installed, in the event that repairs are needed the steps will be closed until repairs are done. All cost will be the Conservation Commission's responsibility. The Commission will get this to the Board by the end of this week.

On a motion by David and second from Alex the Board voted 3-1, with Maria as the No vote, to sign the zoning permit application.

The Board reviewed the Fire Truck Contract which came in at \$499,427. The voters approved an amount not to exceed \$500,000. The consensus of the Board was, they were not comfortable signing the contract knowing it will exceed \$500,000. A special town meeting may be necessary to approve the additional funds. Rick Looman will talk with Garth, salesman and get back to the Board.

David spoke to the Board regarding Grants through Act 172 (MERP) for an energy audit. This will not be much different from previous audits performed. When applying only one municipal building can be chosen. Dummerston's chances for getting are not a high priority. Alex and the Energy Committee will be meeting tomorrow regarding community resilience.

David, Lee, and Charlotte met with VTrans, Megan Brook regarding grants available for paving, structures and road repairs.

Unfinished Business: None

There being no other business to come before the Board, Maria made the motion and second from David, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Approved

Zeke Goodband, Chair

Terry Chapman, Vice-Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Clerk