

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 30, 2020

This meeting was called to order by Zeke Goodband at 6:00 pm via Zoom online conferencing in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members present: Zeke Goodband, Maria Glabach, Jerelyn Wilson, Terry Chapman, David Baxendale

Members absent: None

Also present: Harold & Jean Newell, Charlotte Annis, Gail & Lou Sorenson, Anne Black, Laurie Frechette, Lee Chamberlin.

Minutes:

On a motion by Terry and second from David the Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from December 16, 2020 and December 18, 2020.

Warrants:

On a motion by Terry and second from Jerelyn the Board voted 5-0 to approve ratifying the payment of warrants 14, 14P, Capital Fund #4, & Conservation Commission #2.

Public Comments: None

Road Foreman's Report:

No date set to start the Covered Bridge repairs. Parts have been ordered. Charlotte reported that the Town has received \$48,500 from VLCT.

There was storm damage on Roel Road and Camp Arden Road. Estimated cost to repair is \$10,000.00. This has been submitted to the State for possible reimbursement.

Two trucks are down at this time – International is getting injectors and the One-Ton is needing body welding. These repairs are not covered by insurance.

Correspondence for Information: No discussion

Correspondence for Discussion and/or Action: None

New Business:

The consensus of the Board was to set the Town Meeting Informational Meeting for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm via Zoom. This will be after the regular Selectboard meeting.

The Board discussed proposed budget feedback received.

Email received from Paul Normandeau was discussed and Zeke will respond.

An email received from Maeve Jenks was also discussed.

The following is a brief summary of the public comments:

Gail Sorenson – questioned the increase in the Selectboard Assistant wages. Maria explained that the Board will be looking to hire an assistant. They will be looking for a candidate who is able to have office hours and also possibly fill other positions that are currently open.

Charlotte Annis – questioned why the Board chose to freeze wages.

Zeke responded that the Boards goal was to level fund the budget.

Jerelyn commented that the Board was trying to put together a budget that people could approve.

David commented that municipalities across the country are suffering. Dummerston has not laid off any workers and continues to fully fund health insurance, health savings account and the health reimbursement account.

Gail Sorenson – would the Board consider a cost of living increase.

Lee Chamberlin check with the Towns of Putney and Newfane and both towns are at this time proposing increases.

Unfinished Business: None

There being no other business to come before the Board, Maria made the motion and second from Terry, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

BUDGET WORK SESSION FOLLOWING MEETING

Called to order at 6:40 pm

Public Present: Gail & Lou Sorenson, Harold & Jean Newell

The Board discussed and reviewed the two emails received.

The Board also reviewed all the budget worksheets. Changes were made to the Highway Fund, General Fund, and the Structures Fund.

The Board also discussed at length the wages and the current benefit package. Terry and David will look into other towns to compare wages and benefits received.

Maria will update the budget worksheets and send to Laurie to update the website. Residents are encouraged to email the Board with feedback. Budget feedback discussion will be on the agenda for the next Selectboard meeting on 1/13/2021.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Approved

Zeke Goodband, Chair

Terry Chapman, Vice Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Selectboard Assistant