

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2023

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

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

Members absent: Rebecca Lotka

Also present: Mark Kracum, Phyllis Emery, Jack Manix, Esler Orest-BCTV

Minutes:

On a motion by Terry and second from Maria the Board voted 3-0 with David abstaining to approve the minutes from December 28, 2022.

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

Warrants:

On a motion by Terry and second from David the Board voted 4-0 to approve the payment of warrants 14 & 14P.

The warrant includes ARPA payables to Historical Society for \$2,710.00 for the door and the Evening Star Grange for \$990.00 for additional ceiling repair.

ARPA Funding: None

Public Comments: (moved to before New Business)

Road Foreman's Report:

FEMA update: None

On a motion by Terry and a second from David the Board voted 4-0 to approve and sign the AOT 2023 Mileage Certificate. There were no changes to the certificate, Dummerston has 79.155 miles of road.

Correspondence for Information: None

Correspondence for Discussion and/or Action:

The Board received an email from Eesha Williams regarding LTP Library. An email was also received from the Library Director. Eesha suggested the Town buy Brattleboro library cards for residents and close the Library. The consensus of the Board is that this is not feasible.

Public Comments:

Jack Manix with the Farmland Protection Committee spoke with the Board regarding a potentially important project the Committee is working on. He is concerned how land pricing is going up. He had three requests for the Board:

1. To increase the budget allocation from \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00.
2. He requested \$3,500.00 from the fund for a land appraisal of the project they are working on.
3. Appoint June Levinsohn to the Farmland Protection Committee. Vern Grubinger is stepping down.

On a motion by Maria and second from Terry the Board voted 4-0 to appoint June Levinsohn to the Farmland Protection Committee. (moved up from New Business)

The consensus of the Board was they were in favor of the request for \$3,500.00 appraisal request and will put it on the January 25th agenda.

The Board will discuss the budget increase request at the budget meeting.

New Business:

ARPA Updates & Discussion:

The Board received a suggestion to install warning lights for the covered bridge height close to Dummerston Center. The Town's PACIF representative is looking into how other covered bridges in the state are warned. Zeke will look into getting more information regarding the suggested warning lights.

On a motion by Terry and second from Maria the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Eliza Greenhoe-Bergh to help in the office with Selectboard clerical work. Zeke will let her know.

Covered Bridge Steps Project:

Terry passed along and discussed the Covered Bridge step plans to Wade at PACIF. He stated that the least amount of liability was if it was left in a natural state. Anything done above and beyond the natural state increases the Town's liability exposure.

The steps would need to be monitored for maintenance and safety conditions. Questions arose as to who would be responsible for this – Conservation Commission or Road Crew. How often would this need to be done, daily? And what about weekends?

Maria and Terry were concerned about increasing the Town's liability.

David stated that the Conservation Commission and the entire support team had put a lot of time and effort into this project and had come up with a design which they deemed to be viable.

David made a motion with a second from Terry to sign the zoning permit application to proceed with the Covered Bridge step project. The motion failed on a 2-2 vote. David will let Christine, Conservation Commission Chair know.

The Board received a two year bid from Brett Castine for lawnmowing at the Town Office, Common, and Town Cemeteries. The cost per year will be \$9,425.00. Brett has been doing this mowing for many years.

On a motion by Maria and second from Terry the Board voted 4-0 to accept the lawnmowing bid from Brett Castine.

Added to the Agenda:

The VT legislature is considering passing an act to allow Towns to continue holding town meeting by Australian ballot. Vermont League of Cities & Towns is in favor of this. Our Town Clerk and Treasurer are also in favor of this for health safety and better voter participation. We would need to hold a Zoom informational meeting prior to Town Meeting day. This will be on our next meeting agenda.

On a motion by Maria and second from David the Board voted 4-0 to recess the meeting and convene as the Liquor Control Board at 6:56 pm.

On a motion by Terry and second from David the Board voted 4-0 to approve the liquor license renewal from JR Sandri on Route 5.

On a motion by Maria and second from Terry the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn as the Liquor Control Board and reconvene the meeting at 6:58 pm.

Phyllis Emery commented that she found the meeting interesting. She was there representing the Library and had her questions answered.

Unfinished Business:

Executive Session:

On a motion by Maria and second from Terry the Board voted 4-0 to enter executive session as provided in Vermont Statute, Title 1, Chapter 5, Subsection 2, 313(a), #3 to discuss a personnel matter at 7:00 pm. No decision will be made.

On a motion by Maria and second from Terry the Board voted 4-0 to reconvene the meeting at 7:15 pm.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Terry made the motion and second from David, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

BUDGET WORK SESSION FOLLOWING MEETING

The Board discussed the increase in the Animal Control contract with Windham County Sheriff's Department. The rate has changed to per capita for a three year term with a maximum yearly increase of 4%.

The Board has received an estimated County Tax number.

Payroll wages were discuss and no change made to the budgeted 4% increase.

Farmland Protection budget request was discussed and increased to \$7,000.00 as requested.

Voting by Australian ballot on warning articles was discussed. The Board discussed putting an article on the warning to ask the voters if they would consider changing in person Town Meeting to voting by Australian ballot.

The work session adjourned at 7:45 pm

Approved

Zeke Goodband, Chair

Terry Chapman, Vice-Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Clerk