

UNAPPROVED

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 24, 2024

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, Alex Wilson, Todd Davidson

**Members absent:**

**Also present:** Steve Mindel, Leon Dunbar, Travis Bristol, Larry Pratt, Beverly Tier, Meg Lyons, Catie Berg, Peter Kelleher-BCTV

**Also present via Zoom:** Al Wakefield, Bob Harnish, Mike Mrowicki, Paul Dery

**Minutes:**

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 4-0 with Todd abstaining to approve the minutes from January 10, 2024.

On a motion by Lewis and second from Maria the Board voted 4-0 with Alex abstaining to approve the minutes from January 17, 2024.

**Warrants:**

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to approve the payment of warrants 15, 15P, 15R & Conservation Commission #2.

**ARPA Funding:**

On a motion by Maria and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to authorize the Covered Bridge decking installation not to exceed \$25,000.00 from ARPA funds. Includes cost of additional hardware or material needed. The town crew will do some of the work.

**Public Comments: (6:05-6:55)**

Representatives from Dummerston Cares - Catie Berg, Meg Lyons, and Steve Mindel along with Al Wakefield, Bob Harnish and Mike Mrowicki on Zoom spoke at length regarding the adoption of a Declaration of Inclusion (DOI) by the Selectboard. There were many statements and questions. The representatives from Dummerston Cares don't see their organization taking this on. They would like to see the Selectboard adopt a DOI as town policy.

**Road Foreman's Report:**

At the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board opened the following bids for the Park Laughton Road structure project:

A.S. Clark	\$259,500
Bellco	\$176,500
Evans	\$206,823

Lee has reviewed them and recommended Bellco.

On a motion by Lewis and second from Maria the Board voted 5-0 to accept the Park Laughton Road structure project bid from Bellco in the amount of \$176,500.00.

On a motion by Maria and second from Lewis the Board voted 5-0 to authorize ARPA funds to pay for the structures project.

The Board received an email from Carrie Towle regarding the status of the road/right of way near her house in the West Village. The Board discussed. Zeke will ask Roger to research the deeds for properties along the area in question from the Community Center to West Street.

**Correspondence for Information:**

The Fire Department, Leon Dunbar, Larry Pratt, Paul Dery (on zoom) discussed their budget request as presented to the Board. They stated any surplus funds goes back into either their capital or operating funds. The Fire Department is not in support of the \$76,000.00 in the Selectboard proposed FY25 budget.

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

Update regarding Salmon Brook erosion, Emergency Watershed Protection Program: Todd reported that one property would like to move forward. The deadline to submit the paperwork package is 2/22/24.

Zeke clarified that the change of Right of Way through the ABF property, is to move it to where the Towns of Dummerston and Putney are actually using for access to the gravel pit.

**New Business:**

ARPA Updates – No updates. Maria will email an updated worksheet to the Board.

The Board discussed and considered the Declaration of Inclusion (DOI) as presented by Dummerston Cares. Catie Berg would like to see the Board adopt a DOI as Town policy. Zeke and Todd both suggested the Board “endorse” as opposed to adopt as policy. Catie called Al Wakefield, to see if changing the wording to endorse was acceptable.

The Board briefly paused the meeting and moved onto the next agenda item, while waiting on the outcome of Catie’s call.

On a motion by Todd and second from Zeke the Board voted 3-2 with Maria and Lewis voting no to pass the following: The Dummerston Selectboard endorses the vote of the Dummerston residents supporting the Declaration of Inclusion.

On a motion by Maria and second from Zeke the Board voted 5-0 to approve the FY25 proposed budget.

After consulting with Al Wakefield, Catie formally pulled the petitioned DOI article from the Town Warning.

On a motion by Zeke and second from Todd the Board voted 5-0 to approve the 2024 Town Meeting Warning without the DOI Article.

**Unfinished Business:**

AOT – Mileage Certificates Due by 2/20/24

Investing Farmland Protection Fund Monies – the Board briefly discussed. This item was tabled until after Town Meeting.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Maria made the motion and second from Alex, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 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