

Selectboard Minutes

May 13, 2024

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Kate Ullman and Len Beman

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Mike Tuller (Town Administrator), Anne Connor

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Late additions:

Jessica retained her husband to build a locked room for the garbage bags at the town garage. Next meeting will be on Memorial Day, should it be reschedule?

2. Minutes

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from April 22nd, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

3. FEMA

We were allocated \$422,000 from the Vermont Bond Bank. It is not sufficient, we need funds to recover from flooding last July and December. We will reach out to our bank M&T for \$850,000. This is to pay the state education due on June 1st. This is at 5.5% rate now but could be lower.

Mike Tuller: We have been meeting with FEMA for the July storm and a team for the December storm. There are about a dozen damages from December.

Ball Mountain Brook- Mike has amended the plan and given it to the Selectboard.

He is finalizing the pre-bid meeting with the engineer.

USDA/NRCS projects are moving forward.

The December storm is covered for 80%, with a 20% town share.

Discussion on Bald Mountain Brook clean out. The RFP will go out next week and will be awarded June 10th. Where would the funds come from? The town does not have the funds to finance this project currently. Jessica was under the impression that there were grant funds to help with this project but there are not. Jessica made a motion to table to vote to approve the RFP for the Bald Mountain Brook debris removal project, seconded by Kate. 3 in favor, 1 opposed.

4. Wastewater Project

We have received grant money for researching a wastewater project for the village. The authorized representatives will be Jessica Pollack, Bryan Zieroff and Sara Wiswall. Jessica made a motion to approve the representatives, seconded by Kate. 3 in favor, 1 abstained.

5. State Bridge update

Everything is moving forward toward revised plans for the bridge. There was a meeting last

week that Greg Meulemans was able to attend. VTRANS is waiting to get back some designs. We should know more at the next meeting.

6. Tree planting grant

Anne Connor and Erica Bowman met with Mike Tuller. They have decided not to move forward at this time, for two reasons. The first being to not interfere with what is happening with FEMA. The second reason is that they thought they would get more authentic input if it was not rushed. They plan to have a public meeting in June and apply for the grant in December.

7. Oil tank removal at Historical building

The state is requiring more for this project. They need to access it before we can remove it from the building.

8. Transfer Station signage

Kate Ullman received bids:

Cow signs: \$1800 to construct the post work and install

Tapestries: \$898

Southern Vermont Sign Makers- \$144

Jessica made a motion to accept Southern Vermont sign Maker's bid, which is the lowest.

Seconded by Kate. All in favor.

9. Ratify ARPA resolution

We need to allocate ARPA funds to specific expenditures. Jessica made a resolution (AS Circulated to the board) Second by Kate. All in favor.

10. Traffic & Parking Ordinance

We drafted an amended ordinance to add mechanisms for enforcement, it did pass. We have some ongoing violations. Jessica made a motion to approve the same penalty of \$200 for offenders at Hamilton Falls, seconded by Len. The sheriff is aware of the ordinance and is authorized under our contract to write tickets. All in favor.

Jessica would be fine with the penalty being from \$100-\$200.

The Selectboard would like to place signs up but the signs would just be a courtesy. Once the penalty is approved, it is enforceable with or without signs.

The ordinance also gives the option to remove vehicles.

Jessica made a motion that violations for article 7, section 2, violation of parking on sidewalk or in the roadway will incur a penalty for \$150. Seconded by Kate. All in favor.

11. AssessPro 5 for Listers

Currently, the software program the listers use, is in the firewall and is not a hosted program. There is no support for software. The new program would be on a server, each computer here will connect to the server. We would pay a fee of \$2100 a year for the program. The server would cost \$2,800 per year. The conversion would cost \$3,500. This was budgeted for the

assessment fund. Jessica made a motion to approve the upgrade for the listers program, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

12. Discussion Short Term Rental Ordinance

There is rumbling in the legislature about regulating short term rentals.

All rented properties would need to be registered with the town and they would need to have a 24-hour maintenance keeper. This stems from the July 2023 storm, when we didn't know if there were people in the rented houses. Residents were riding bikes to check if people were stranded in rental houses.

Jessica will make a list of topics for the ordinance. Then a discussion would follow of what we are comfortable with and what we are not.

13. Late additions

The locked room at the town garage for the transfer station bags is almost complete, it just needs to be locked.

Jessica made a motion to set the price of the new bags to \$2.50 for the small bags and \$3.50 for the large bags. Seconded by Kate. Andy is against raising the prices. 3 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed.

There will be a warrant for the locked room at the next meeting. Jessica went ahead and had her husband do the work. The materials were about \$1,000. Jessica made a motion to ratify the chair of the Selectboard to hire someone to build the locked room.

14. Time sheets

Jessica made a motion to approve the timesheets, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

15. Pay orders

Jessica made a motion to approve the pay orders, seconded by Len. All in favor.

The next meeting would be May 27th, which is Memorial Day. The meeting will be moved to Tuesday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Wiswall