

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 4, 2017

PRESENT: Doug Niles, Jim Cross, Jonathan O'Keefe, Mark Castonguay, Bill Hawkins, Joel Cope and Lisa Moore

Chairperson, Doug Niles, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

UPDATE AGENDA: Vermont Local Roads Request, Fire Department Budget, Personnel Policy

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE: Platform Lift – Joel had researched the cost of this a while ago and recalls that at that time it would be between 25-30,000 dollars. Joel will look into this again to be sure of the cost. The platform will only access two floors, meaning that the basement floor may have to be closed off to renters and used only for storage.

Joel mentioned that we have a leak in the gym coming from the top floor. He will find out more from Ray as to how bad it is.

Bill Hawkins said that Keith Gray gave a verbal proposal of approximately \$300 for each basketball hoop to be moved. Bill wants to get the agreement in writing.

Vermont Local Roads Request: Vermont Local Roads requested that our town host their meetings to be scheduled for June 8th and September 13th of this year. Jonathan made a motion that our town will host the meetings in the gym on these dates. Jim seconded the motion, all in favor, so carried.

PERSONNEL POLICY: The board said that they will meet Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. on January 7th to discuss the personnel policy. Joel will warn the meeting on Friday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET: Doug said that Walt Driscoll would like to have the Selectboard go to the firehouse and meet with Rick Hannux and himself to go over the standards of the NFPA (National Fire Protection Act) together and help decide what they need to do to meet the standards. Much of the decision will be based on what we can afford to do. Doug pointed out that our equipment is used infrequently compare to bigger fire departments so should be in good condition as long as it is checked often for problems. Jim made a motion to begin the next regular Selectboard meeting at the fire department at 6:00 P.M. to meet with Walt & Rick to discuss the standards of the NFPA and what they will have to do. Jonathan seconded the motion, all in favor, so carried. Joel will warn that the meeting will begin at the firehouse.

ROADS: Mark said that they had two ice storms recently so they have gone out in the middle of the night.

The green truck is being worked on.

FOOTBRIDGE MAINTENANCE: Joel will be looking into some old invoices from 2007 to see what costs have been in the past.

BETTER CONNECTIONS GRANT RESOLUTION: Michael Strait has agreed to collect support letters from the local merchants, VCRD and the community forum to show that people are interested in the Better Connections Grant Resolution from local merchants and community forum. Jim made a motion to authorize Doug to sign the Better Connections Grant Resolution, Jonathan seconded, all in favor, so carried. Joel will be the local project manager for this.

BUDGET 2017: The Selectboard reviewed the proposed 2017 Budget.

On January 7th the Selectboard will be looking at and taking a walk through our rental spaces to better evaluate what we should be charging for space. They said it would not exceed \$10/Sq Ft.

David Berge presently rents an office space at the railroad depot building. He feels that we are charging too much for the electricity portion of his bill. David also asked if a 30 day notice is required on a lease for a year. The board feels that a 30 day notice should be required. Julianne Woolard would like to move into rental space in the Railroad Depot as soon as possible. She requested in an email that the electric portion of her bill be lowered. The board agreed that they could each pay \$25.00 a month for the electricity. If the bill is higher they will need to address the matter later. Julianne had a concern about fixing a lock. She questioned whose responsibility would it be to fix. The Selectboard agreed that the Town would fix it no charge to her or if she hired someone to do it the Town would pay.

The Historical Society told the board that they will be leasing their rental space for one more year.

Joel said that it is time to renew a lease with NEKLS. Joel will advise them that their rent may be increasing.

TOWN MEETING WARNING ARTICLES: Joel told the board that it is time to think about what articles should go on the warning.

TOWN REPORT: Joel pointed out that he has done the Selectmen Report in the past and asked if they still want him to write it. The board agreed that he could write it and they will review it.

PAY ORDERS: There were none at this time.

APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: December 21st & 29th meeting minutes were reviewed. Jim made a motion to approve the minutes and Jonathan seconded the motion, all in favor, so carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Joel talked to Monica Quick about the problem with the Dollar General delivery trucks causing traffic problems when they park in front of the store to unload. He told her that they need to use their back entrance for this.

Joel will check on LED light replacement in the gym.

The selectboard said that they have no interest in spending money on researching radiant heat in the sidewalks.

Jim made a motion to validate the signing of a loan to cover the end of year expenses. Jonathan seconded the motion, all in favor, so carried.

The board looked at an average hourly wage chart for town employees. Doug said that they will review it further at the meeting to be held on Saturday, January 7th.

There was discussion about future recreation ideas and the possibility of going to the voters to see if they would be in favor of hiring a Recreation Director.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.