

BRIGHTON SELECTBOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER 6, 2019

PRESENT: Michael Strait, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Heather Johnson, Jonah Rumble-Petre, Ray Fontaine, Mark Castonguay, Joel Cope, and Lisa Moore

Michael Strait called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ROAD DEPT.: Mark Castonguay reminded the board that Jerry Blake is retiring from the road department the first of May. The Board decided that they will post the job opening in the three local newspapers and on the bulletins about mid February with a hiring date of the first of April.

Mark said that he needs three new line items added to the new budget which will be for stone, seed and culverts. The combined line items will be around \$5000.

Michael Strait told Mark that it is his job to talk with restaurant owners, Brighton Garage and anyone else that he thinks of about where they are allowed to put their snow. The earlier the better.

For the last few months, Heather Johnson, District Manager of Essex County Natural Resources Conservation District, has been studying the condition of our roads that are hydrologically connected. She will soon have a binder for the selectboard to work from that will show each road that needs to be brought up to state standards, what needs to be done and roughly the cost of the project. This will make it easier for the Selectboard to pick out which projects should be addressed first and also to predict what they will need to budget for. Heather is also able to get grants for these projects.

Heather asked for the selectboard's support in appropriating \$500 in funds to the Essex County NRCD in the 2020 budget. The funds would be used to assist our town with getting Category B Grants. The board agreed to put the increase on the warning for the 2020 proposed budget.

Heather had concerns about the large rocks along the edge of the river by the Welcome Center. They are pushing into the river and could eventually damage the bridge. Mark is going to try to remove the rocks that are not sunk in. They may need to call Patrick Ross concerning the other rocks since they are so close to

the river.

Jeanne Gervais made a motion to sign the Back Roads Grant for Stevens Loop. Heather McElroys seconds. All in favor, so carried.

Heather will be inviting Stone Environmental to come and speak with Joel next week about the Project Development Grant.

Buildings & Maintenance: Ray said he buried a drain hose under the hill side by the corner of the Town building and it has been effective in keeping water out of the basement.

A roto-rooter had to be used last week to unplug a toilet in the basement. Two pair of boxer shorts were pulled out.

The board talked about how to better secure the Town Building. They discussed which doors need to be locked and a need for cameras.

Employee Health Insurance: There will be a 28% cost increase if the Town was to continue with the same health plan as last year. The MVP health plan is basically the same plan with only a 4.78% increase. There will no longer be an option for those people over 65 years of age to be covered by the Town Health Plan. They will need to go through Medicare and the Town will reimburse the employee for Medicare premiums. Medicare premiums cost less. Jeanne Gervais made a motion to change over to the MVP Health Insurance Plan effective January 1, 2019. Heather McElroy seconds, all in favor.

Recycling Center Hours and Holidays: It was decided that the people who work at the recycling center should also be paid for Holidays. If they choose to work on a Holiday, they will receive double time. If they do not work on the Holiday they will be paid for their regular hours. It will be up to the workers of the recycle center what holidays they wish to be closed on.

Proposed 2020 Brighton Bulky Days: The board is in agreement that Bulky Days will be **5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12** for 2020. They would like to come up with a sign that informs people of what kind of things are accepted and not accepted on Bulky Days. It was suggested that we do a mailing to residents informing them of the rules for Bulky Day.

Brighton will have another tire day. The charge is yet to be decided.

Broadband CUD: NEK Community Fiber is seeking to provide internet access to all

businesses and residential addresses in the NEK. They are forming a Communication Union District which is a municipal entity made up of two or more towns. The selectboard would have to appoint a representative of our Town to the CUD board of directors. No action was taken at this time by the selectboard. They will first review the NEK Community Fiber handout.

Opioid letter from Donovan: A letter from Atty. General, Donovan, was shared with the board which invited our Town to join a Negotiation Class Action lawsuit involving opioid related litigation. The Attorney General has sued opioid manufacturer Purdue Pharma, its owners and the pharmaceutical distributors to hold those responsible for the opioid epidemic. We can participate without having to file our own case or hire an attorney, and will be included unless the board decides to opt out.

Pay Orders: Pay orders were reviewed and signed.

Other Business: Jonah Rumble-Petre, E911 Coordinator, said that there is a request to have a private road by the name of Harold Rd changed to either Walker Inn Rd, Walker Lane or Walker Camp Rd. The E911 state Coordinator that Jonah spoke with advised that this could be a disastrous situation and will cause problems with emergency service since there is already a Walker Rd. The selectboard told Jonah to tell the people because the name "Walker" is already taken and that this could pose a risk for emergency service, that they should choose another name.

The new Water and Sewer Contract is ready to be approved. The board wishes to review the contract before they give their recommendation.

Adjourned at 8:05 PM