

SELECTBOARD MEETING

December 4, 2019

Present: Michael Strait, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Ed Barber, Lindy Pronto, Charlie Pronto, Steven Poulus, Mary Gouldings, Ray Fontaine, Stacey Roese, Joel Cope and Lisa Moore

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

Update Agenda: Lake Memphremagog Watershed Association; CUD Fiber; SASH request; Town Hall Spill

Newport Ambulance: Charlie Pronto spoke on behalf of Newport Ambulance Service. Charlie explained that they ran into unforeseen obstacles with Act 250 and a perk test when they were trying to find property for the new substation. This morning they obtained an occupancy permit for a suitable building that they found and they will soon begin building an addition and doing renovations. They hope to have the new substation in operation by March 1st, 2020.

He expressed appreciation to Brighton for allowing them to use the fire station in the meantime of trying to find a suitable substation in Morgan. He said from that they did learn that Brighton did not have enough calls to justify having the substation here. Out of the 2809 calls that their service has received since they took over, only 129 of them were in Brighton. Charlie assured that we would still have 24/7 coverage.

Charlie presented a copy of their budget and the new contract agreement to the board. A 3% raise increase for employees is reflected in the budget. Charlie said they want to keep their employees and this gives them incentive to stay. Jeanne Gervais made a motion to sign the Newport Ambulance Service Agreement. Heather McElroy seconds, all in favor, so carried.

Public Comment: Mary Gouldings and Steven Poulus, spoke on behalf of the Memphremagog Watershed Association. They are requesting to be put on a ballot for the appropriation amount of \$1000 for the purpose of raising funds to hire an EcoAmericops person to coordinate area efforts in the prevention and spread of invasive species. The cost of this person's position will be approximately \$9000.

Michael Strait pointed out that we may need this money for our own greeter program. Brighton's population is much smaller than some of the other surrounding towns that may have more to give in support of this request. The board did not want to risk the full amount of the request without knowing more about how Island Pond would benefit from this, but agreed to put it in a line item on the Town Warning in the amount of \$200. The board reasoned that they would like to see more of how the program is going to work throughout the year before appropriating a larger sum of money and invited Mary and Steven to come back next year with more information. They can also put a petition out for the voters to sign.

Buildings & Maintenance: Ray Fontaine said that he hung the new banner up on the Town pavilion. The Christmas tree is all set to be lit up on Saturday during the Town festivities. Ray washed the basketball court to make it less slippery.

Pay Orders: The pay orders for the general account and road department were reviewed and signed by the Selectboard.

Employee Health Insurance & Medicare: Town employees met earlier this day to learn about the town's new MVP health plan and to sign enrollment applications.

Heather McElroy made a motion that people who choose not to be covered by the Town's healthcare plan will be eligible for fifty-percent of a single person cost of the Town's plan in the form of a stipend after certifying that they have health insurance coverage. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Local Emergency Management Plan: Joel Cope received word that our LEMP was approved by the state.

Roads Open to Snowmobiles: Stacey Roese made a request on behalf of the Brighton Snowmobile Club to open more roads to the Snowmobile Club. He asked for the Middle St. access to connect all the way to Mountain St. and for Elm St. to be open from Mountain St. only as far as Jesse's Little Kitchen. (From there people would have to turn around and back track to Mountain St.) He also requested for a section of Head of the Pond road to be open from Lakeshore Drive as far as the Gunn property line

Jeanne Gervais made a motion to open Middle St. to Mountain St.; Elm St. to Jesse's Little Kitchen; from Lakeshore Drive to Robby Gunn's property line on Head of the Pond Rd.; and continue to allow all of the previous roads that were open to snowmobilers. Heather McElroy seconds, all in favor, so carried.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings: The board reviewed and approved the minutes of November 20, 2019.

Water/Sewer Contract: The board reviewed and signed the new Water/Sewer Contract.

Michael Strait pointed out that the contract says the W/S Department is responsible for keeping the snow cleared from the fire hydrants.

Joel shared a letter from Wayne Elliott that showed results of water flow studies that were measured.

SASH Request: The board discussed the request to appropriate \$1000 to SASH. Heather made a motion to put SASH as a line item for \$1000 on the 2020 ballot for voters. SASH presently serves 35 clients in Island Pond. The Selectboard would like to know what other Towns appropriate and to see a budget report that shows how the money is used.

CUD Fiber: NEK Community Fiber is asking for the Town to join their service and would like to be put on the ballot the following question *“Shall the Town of Brighton enter into a communications union district (CUD) to be known as NEK Community Fiber, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Ch82?”*

Jeanne Gervais made a motion to put NEKCUD on the ballot. Heather McElroy seconds, all in favor, so carried.

Town Hall Spill: The Town Hall had an underground fuel tank leak that was discovered a few years ago. The state has an underground storage tank program that has been active for testing and now they want to consider some treatment options. The state will pay for this. Joel will be contacting them to tell them to go ahead with this.

Other Business: The board reviewed the budget.

The Mason's want to be put on the 2020 warning. The are asking to be considered tax exempt.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM