

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2021

Present: Michael Strait, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Katie Mientka, Paul Chambers, Mark Castonguay, Bruce Rumball-Petre, Jeff Noyes, Joel cope, and Teresa DeBonville.

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

Updates to the agenda: Ambulance contract, UTG request, NCHC vaccination letter, coin drop, letter for the select board, and utility report for VCAAP Grant.

A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to authorize Joel Cope as signer for the Newport Ambulance contract. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

UTG sent a letter stating that they want Brighton Fire Department to supply emergency services to only half of their area. This would cut the invoice that is sent to them in half. Because they paid in 2020; they also are asking for the credit to be applied to 2021's invoice. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to apply the credit from 2020 to 2021. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

A letter was sent to the board from the Disabled Veteran's Association requesting permission to hold their annual coin drop on August 7, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A motion to approve the request under standard guidelines and conditions was made by Heather McElroy. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Northern Counties Health Care sent a letter requesting use of the town hall for covid vaccinations. A motion was made by Heather McElroy to grant permission for use of the gym as a vaccination site. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Letters were sent to the select board from Kimberly Crossin complaining about town personnel. The board took no action on this.

Michael asked if anyone was working on the utility reports for delinquent water and sewer bills for the VCAAP Grant. Lisa Moore is working on the reports requested.

Public comment: None.

Road Department: Mark informed the board that the new dump truck was delivered to have the dump body put on.

Mark informed the board that Sweet Tree contacted him about repairing any damage that was done to the Head of the Pond Road.

Paul Chambers asked Mark if the road crew would plow out 1 or 2 spots at the parking area at the Bluff Mountain Trail for winter hikers to park. Mark will do this.

Buildings and maintenance: The board discussed a complaint about the sidewalk on Mountain Street. Some businesses were complaining as well because they were not informed of the new sidewalk snow removal policy put in place. The board will put something in the town report or possibly mail out a letter stating the new snow removal policy.

Bruce will get estimates on the cost to replace the tiles in the bathroom at the depot.

Bucky Tardif will come to clean the furnace at the depot. Bruce will get an estimate from Bucky on the cost to replace the heating system at the depot when he does the furnace cleaning.

Recreation: Paul mentioned to the board about joining the Vermont Parks and Recreation Association. This has an \$80.00 membership fee. The board is ok with this.

Paul and Luke O'Brien have been in contact to discuss the development of the Kingdom Heritage Trail 2.0. This would connect Brighton and Willoughby through hiking trails. Paul asked permission to take a scouting walk with Luke on the town forest land and also the water department land. The board gave Paul permission to scout the town forest land; but told Paul to contact Marty for permission to walk the water department land.

Paul went up and looked at the town forest property that Charlie Pronto was interested in to see if it was something the recreation department may be interested in using before the board gave a definite answer as to whether or not they wanted to sell or lease this out. Paul told the board that the land has so much potential for recreational use. The board agreed that they did not want to sell the land or lease at this time.

Personnel: Nothing.

School board: Katie Mientka was present to ask about holding the public informational meeting details and town meeting. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to hold the public informational meeting virtually on Monday, March 1, 2021 beginning with the school's portion at 7:00 PM and continuing with the town's portion immediately following. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried. All business will be conducted on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 by Australian Ballot beginning at 9:00 AM.

Approve 2021 budget: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to approve the 2021 proposed budget of \$1,437,975.83. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Town meeting 2021 warning: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to approve the 2021 warning for town meeting. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Appoint Library Trustee: Heather McElroy motions to appoint Judith Valente to fill the remainder of the term of Rebecca Lefebvre due to resignation. This will only be until election day of March 2, 2021. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Pay orders: The board reviewed and signed the pay orders for the general account and the road account.

Approve previous minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting and the January 6, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to approve the minutes as printed. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: Paul Chambers mentioned to the board that a decision has to be made by February 7, 2021 whether or not to postpone the marathon scheduled for May 1, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM