

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2022

Present: Michael Strait, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Andy Martin, Bruce Rumball-Petre, and Teresa DeBonville. Attending virtually: Joel Cope, Paul Chambers, and Bruce Webster.

Chairperson, Michael Strait called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Update agenda: cleaning position.

Kelly Zerwek has resigned as the cleaning person for the town hall. Erica Rumball-Petre is interested in the position. Jeanne Gervais motions to hire Erica Rumball-Petre; as an independent contractor; not a town employee to replace Kelly Zerwek. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Public comment: Nothing.

Road department: Andy has had two engineers give him a proposal for scope of work on the East Brighton Bridge Project. Andy would like to go with Dubois and King on this project. The board is ok with this.

Andy attended the foreman's meeting in Derby at Vtrans today.

Andy has ordered the culvert thawer.

A motion was made by Heather Mcelroy to have the select board chair sign the overweight permits. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Buildings and maintenance: Bruce will be cleaning the carpets in the town hall. Bruce will be painting the chair rail and recoating the bleachers in the gym. Andy will help Bruce fix the pully system on the bleachers so they are easier to set up.

Michael Strait shared with the board equipment that he suggests that the town purchase for virtual meeting set up. The board agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the equipment suggested by Michael; using ARPA Funds to pay for this purchase.

Bruce will look into getting quotes to fix the alarm system on the footbridge.

Recreation: Paul reported that the winter carnival was very successful. The next big event is the tri-county fishing tournament, which will be in two weeks. The same protocol as last year will be in place.

The tentative ground breaking for the new playground equipment will be May 20, 2022.

Police coverage: Police Chief Jeff Noyes has given his resignation. For the time being, Joel will contact the Essex County Sheriff's Department about contracting with them for police coverage here in town. We will look into having our own coverage for town again.

Basil Hill: Joel is waiting to hear back from the attorney on this subject.

Animal control officer/pound keeper: We still have no animal control officer/pound keeper. Heather will contact the towns of Charleston, Morgan and Newark to see if their animal control officer would be willing to cover Brighton as well. Scott Buchman will return the cages in the spring when the snow melts.

Town meeting 2022: The board approved allowing the girl scouts to set up a booth on election day to sell cookies.

ARPA funds for town manager: The board agreed to use the ARPA funds to pay the first- and second-year's wages for a town manager if this item is passed at town meeting.

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

Approve previous minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes pending correction of a spelling error was made by Heather McElroy. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.