

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2022

Present: Michael Strait, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Anne Budrewicz, Bruce Rumball-Petre, Andy Martin, Paul Chambers, and Teresa DeBonville. Attending virtually: Joel Cope, Bruce Webster, and Joseph Gresser from The Barton Chronicle.

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

Updates: Sign the VCDP resolution for the Downtown Preservation Grant. A motion was made by Heather McElroy to sign the resolution. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Appoint Chairperson: A motion was made by Heather McElroy to appoint Michael Strait as the select board chairperson. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Public comment: Nothing.

Set dates, times, and places of regular meetings: A motion was made by Heather McElroy to set the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM, in the town hall for the dates, time, and place of the regular select board meetings. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Name newspaper of record: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to name the Caledonian Record as the town's newspaper of record. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Set rates for town equipment: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to increase the rates for the town equipment by \$10.00 per hour. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried. The 2022 equipment rates are as follows:

1. Backhoe: \$105.00
2. Front End Loader: \$115.00
3. Truck: \$85.00
4. Grader: \$120.00
5. Sidewalk Tractor: \$85.00

Appoint Officers: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais and seconded by Heather McElroy to appoint the following people to the positions as follows:

Fence Viewers: The select board
Pound Keeper: Tabled
Tree Warden: Andy Martin
Animal Control Officer: Tabled

Town Service Officer: Lisa Moore
Constable: Bruce Rumball-Petre

Road Department: Larry Smith from PACIF came to the garage and inspected equipment and locations for our PACIF insurance. Larry looked at the culvert thawing machine and told Andy this needed to be replaced by April 24, 2022. Andy has already placed an order for one.

The only other issue at this time is that at the North and South Plants for water/sewer mold was found on the wall. This also needs to be taken care of by April 24, 2022.

Andy will start replacing culverts on Pleasant Street around July 1, 2022. The paving company will wait until the project is finished before they pave, and the estimated start date for paving will be mid-August.

Andy has talked with the loggers about chains on the streets and mud season activity on the roads. All of them are willing to co-operate with Andy on this issue.

Joel told the board that Mr. Riendeau's Lawyer is on board with signing the order for Basil Hill if the bond was removed. The board agreed that the bond was not necessary; but proof of insurance is needed. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to sign the order without the bond for signatures. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Buildings and maintenance: Bruce has cleaned the carpets in the town hall and Jeff's office. Bruce will start painting the chair rails and bleachers in the gym. The Town Clerk's office will be painted; and the board agreed that Teresa and Lisa could choose the colors.

Bruce will move the water cooler from Jeff's office to the town garage.

Recreation: Paul will meet with Kate Alberghini tomorrow at the welcome center.

Paul will contact Bucky to install the automatic water bottle fill up at an installation cost of \$1,000.00.

Paul has received a \$2,000.00 grant from Tillotson's for swim lessons.

The Tri-County fishing tournament will take place this weekend.

Personnel: In a couple months Paul will be leaving the recreation director position for personal reasons. Paul asked the board how they would like to proceed with the position moving forward. Paul asked if they still wanted just one position; or if they were willing to split it between an administrative position and a hands on position. The board felt that they would take Paul's ideas on how to proceed.

The board discussed the Town Manager's position that was voted in by the town's people at Monday night's Annual Town Meeting. The board agreed that they are several months away from hiring a town manager and will continue to work on job descriptions, applications, qualifications over the next several months. Michael Strait stated he will not be applying for the position.

Joel Cope stated that working 20 hours per week isn't enough time to get the things done for the projects in town and is falling behind. Joel suggested to the board that Michael Strait should get paid for the things he has been doing voluntarily for the projects; and up the Town Administrator's position another 40 hours per week and benefits and hire Michael Strait for the position as he has been working on them voluntarily already. Mike stated that he would accept the position, if offered to him, only if it was for a minimum of six months at the pay rate of \$32.00 per hour. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to increase the Town Administrator's position 40 hours per week (totaling 60 hours), and hire Michael Strait to fill this extra 40 hours per week for a minimum of 6 months at the rate of pay of \$32.00 an hour starting immediately. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

A vacancy for cemetery commissioner, auditor, and moderator for both the School's Annual Meeting and the Town's Annual Meeting are still vacant. John Manning is interested in the cemetery commissioner's position and Bruce Rumball-Petre is interested in the Moderator's position.

Pay Orders: Tabled.

Overweight permits: Tabled.

Review previous meeting minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as printed was made by Heather McElroy. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: Nothing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.