

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JULY 3, 2024

Present: Jeanne Gervais, Mike Testut, Heather McElroy, Greg Manning , Pierre Gervais, Noah Bond, Gwyn Worthington, Craig Goulet, Jamie Budrewicz, Anne Budrewicz, Andy Martin, Michael Strait, and Teresa DeBonville.

Attending virtually: Joel Cope, Bruce Webster, Mercedes Manning, and Ed Barber.

Chairperson, Jeanne Gervais called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Updates to the agenda: Pay Orders, Previous meeting minutes, resignation of Justice of the Peace members, Union negotiations, Tax rate for 2024, and support letter for ticket writing for the animal control officer.

Public comment: Craig Goulet and Gwyn Worthington were present to file a complaint about the process done by the town crew and damage done to trees on their property when brush hogging was done. The board acknowledged after hearing the complaints that this was a mistake and agrees to come up with a solution to resolve the mistake. The board would like to get estimates for an arborist and quite possibly replacement of the trees on these properties before they proceed with rectification of the problem.

Jamie Budrewicz asked if there were any updates on the radar speed sign on Pleasant Street. Noah explained to everyone that after speaking with the company who made the sign, that the sign would cost between \$1500.00 and \$2000.00 to repair and about \$4000.00 to replace. A motion was made by Pierre Gervais to approve the repair of the sign not to exceed \$2000.00 with funds coming from the police department budget line items. Greg Manning seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

More conversation was held about purchasing three new signs and placing them at the town line entrance on the East Brighton Road, Derby Street, and Railroad Street, as the board continues to hear complaints about speeding on these roads as well. A motion was made by Heather McElroy to purchase three signs and place them on the East Brighton Road, Derby Street, and Railroad Street with funds coming from grant money, and to have Noah speak with the sheriff's department about more patrol and radar coverage in Brighton. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried. Noah will also contact NVDA for information on a speed study.

Vermont Electric Cooperative downtown letter: A motion was made by Heather McElroy to sign the letter to the CEO of Vermont Electric Cooperative for the purpose of working with the town on proceeding with the downtown infrastructure project. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Resignation letter of Justice of the Peace: Noah shared a letter of resignation from Peder and Susan Pederson as Justice of the Peace.

Pierre Gervais motioned to accept the resignation of Jeanne Gervais as Water and Sewer Commissioner. Greg Manning seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried. A motion was made by Heather McElroy to appoint Bruce Webster to the Water and Sewer Commissioners' position to fill the resignation of Jeanne Gervais. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Appoint Library Trustees: Pierre Gervais motions to appoint Gayle Cornelius, and Judy Castonguay to fill the vacancies due to resignation as Library Trustees. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Support letter for ticket writing for the animal control officer: the board signed a letter of support allowing Ryan Perry, animal control officer to write tickets.

Property Tax Rate 2024: A motion was made by Heather McElroy to approve the following as the 2024 property tax rate:

1. Homestead Rate: \$2.6538
2. Non-Homestead Rate: \$2.9758

Pierre Gervais seconds the motion. Greg Manning Abstained.

Union negotiations: As of July 1, 2024, the Town of Brighton is a unionized municipality. Noah explained the process of negotiations to the board, but no contract has been given to the town yet.

Personnel Policy: Noah will be working on the updates give to him by the board members and the suggestions from VLCT.

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

Town Manager's Report: See attached.

Approve the minutes of the previous meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of the June 13, 2024, meeting. A motion was made by Pierre Gervais to approve the minutes as printed. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: Mike Testut asked about the pole barn at the town garage. The board agreed to have Andy get them a scope of work and the Noah will apply for all the required permits before proceeding with this project.

Executive session: Tabled.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

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Town Manager Report

Update:

Pay orders

Resignation document to the board Peder and Susan Pederson

Gail Cornelious and Judy Castonge to the Library Trustees

Union negotiations

Bruce Webster appt.

Approve minutes of the previous meeting

Tax Rate

Request for dog officer number for Ryan to write tickets

Announcement:

-The summer Fun Guide is out! If you haven't been to any of the businesses in town or the town office please stop on by to pick up a pamphlet. You won't want to miss all of the incredible events happening this summer as Island Pond is your Basecamp for the best summer ever!

Roads

-Ditching, DI's, tree trimming and mowing, patrolling roads.

Maintenance:

-Regular maintenance and recycling duties along with gym floor cleaning, and summer preparations are underway. Additional work for 4th of July week!

Administration:

- WWTF, T term grant and Preservation Trust grants

- Village designation center removal

-Preparation and implementation for 4th of July week

Town Manager:

Report Begins:

PACIF Insurance Review:

- Reviewed PACIF insurance to determine coverage for the Fire Department boat.
- Collaborated with PACIF and VEC to address the latest incident involving a broken pole and downed line.

FEMA and ANR Collaboration:

- Conducted two meetings with FEMA to assess additional damages.
- Engaged with ANR during the FEMA call regarding a perennial stream, changing the project scope. Documentation will be submitted under Mitigation due to the culvert not meeting bridges and roads standards.

Sign Replacement and Budget Utilization:

- Discussed with Marlin Controls Inc. about replacing the sign on Pleasant St. near Lakeshore Dr. at an estimated cost of \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00, including mailing the sign back for repair.
- Proposed using the surplus from last year's Police budget to purchase two additional radar signs for Cross St. and Derby St., each costing approximately \$4,000.00, to mitigate speeding. The board's authorization is required for these purchases.

All Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP):

- Coordinated with Paul Luciano to ensure payment for his ongoing work on the town's AHMP, which is crucial for disaster recovery planning.
- Submitted a reimbursement request to the State for the grant-funded AHMP project.

Grant Support and Community Initiatives:

- Wrote a letter of support for grant initiatives benefiting the town, in collaboration with Mike Strait.
- Coordinated with the Lake Association for staffing and scheduling.

- Partnered with Greg's Flooring to refinish and coat the gymnasium, with plans to collaborate with the school due to the \$8,000.00 cost.

Open Meeting Law Compliance:

- Worked with the State and VLCT to follow the new Open Meeting Law.
- Created a YouTube channel for the Town of Brighton to record major meetings, providing a viewing option for residents.

Community Engagement and Maintenance:

- Attempted to contact the Snowmobile Club regarding a park issue but was unable to reach them.
- Submitted a payroll report to VLCT.
- Uploaded minutes for the Water/Sewer, Planning Commission, Selectboard, and Library meetings.
- Collaborated with engineers from Aldrich and Elliot to assess damages, with a detailed estimate expected within two weeks.

USDA Compliance Training:

- Completed compliance training with the USDA.
- Posted required documentation and reported to the USDA, ensuring materials like TTY interpreters are available to all residents.

Resident Communication:

- Coordinated with Andy to notify residents about the street sweeper schedule for Monday the 1st or Tuesday the 2nd, weather permitting.

Facility and Legal Coordination:

- Resolved an issue with the Keri door lock system in the basement with assistance from Bill H.
- Communicated with the Union Representative for the Road Crew, expressing eagerness for collaboration.

- Consulted the town Attorney on several legal questions.