

UNAPPROVED
SELECT BOARD MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Baker, Philip E. Mazzucco, Charles Rockwell, Thomas Wilson and Linda Montague.

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrea Lenhardt and Brett Lourie.

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m., using "Zoom".

Motion by Linda, seconded by Debbie to approve the November minutes as written.
Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

1. Received notice from Manchester Urgent Care of a bite from an unlicensed dog at the former Taylor residence on Pawlet Mountain Road. It has been determined that the dog was vaccinated for rabies last June.
2. Vermont Legislature making possible changes to Town Meeting Day procedures. Candidates do not have to collect signatures, but still have to sign the consent form. Pre-Town Meeting could be at the Firehouse if enough room is there for social distancing or it might be a remote meeting. Select Board could be allowed to waive the voter signatures requirement for article petitions. Changes are being formulated in Montpelier.
3. An email from the State urging Select Boards to be conservative with their new budgets as the education tax will possibly increase for 2021.
4. Invoice from NEMRC for \$5,000.00 to cover their support services. It was the consensus of the Board to renew the contract.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Latest bank statement has not arrived. Full financial report next meeting
2. While having "Zoom" meetings, Linda and Phil will continue to sign the orders.
3. Tom authorized Andy to pay \$150.00 for one year of "Zoom" meetings if we need them

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. The Vermont Land Trust alerting the Town of lands owned by Lourie on East Street and Lang Road will be entering the Land Trust program.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Highway Report: doing some snow plowing, cutting brush and am going to buy some new road signs at about \$40.00 apiece. A Better back Roads grant has been applied for.
2. Town Green land sale is ready to go through. The papers are at John Thrasher's office. Linda will call him tomorrow and go there to sign the deed.
3. For the Town Office, the deadline for a roof grant is January 4th. There was a discussion of prepping the building for the installation of radiant heat this winter.
4. The new Work Policy draft is ongoing with Debbie and Charlie in charge.
5. A cashier's check for \$28,900.00 was received from Galiano Construction Company for the 2014 Dodge truck sale.
6. Motion by Charlie, seconded by Linda to defend our Town line with Dorset using a 1936 map entitled "Lands owned by the H.D. Nims estate". Motion carried. Charlie said in a recent survey of the former Nims property, the evidence is very solid for the location of the Town line. This land parcel is in both Rupert and Dorset.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. With the new year the Board will be planning the new budget.
2. Debbie did research into an insurance plan with MVP. Each employee gets a debit card up to \$5,000.00 to be applied for dental and eye care. Many thanks to Debbie for her work on getting the best plan for our employees.
3. Michael Paxton, the new owner of the Morris Tobin property was at the last Planning Commission meeting Charlie said, and wanted to know if the Town could help to remove a recently installed solar array from his neighbor's field. The array is blocking his view and is an eyesore. Act 248 prohibits the Town from interfering with the array, though perhaps it could get moved to another location on the Mithofer property. Charlie is going to invite our State Representative Sally Achey to a "zoom" meeting to address the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Brett asked if the Board would place an article on the Town Meeting Warning to increase the term for First Constable from one year to two or three. He said that it would allow him more time to serve and get additional training.
2. Bret had a call come in about a truck nearly stuck on Derby Hill Road under icy conditions. The Road Crew went out to assist.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into executive session at 7:33 p.m. regarding a personnel issue and came out of executive session at 7:44 p.m.

Orders were signed by Phil and Linda.

Motion by Charlie, seconded by Debbie to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Montague
Select Board Clerk and Co-Chair