

**Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
August 21st, 2019**

Present at Meeting:

Bert Potter, Selectman; Steven Nicholson, Selectman; Aaron Korzun, Selectman; Mark Goodwin, Clerk

Jamie Carrara – Road Commissioner
Sharon Winnicki – Chair, Board of Listers
Ronnie Bowers, Lister
Weezie Duda – Chair, Conservation Commission
Pam Darrow – Conservation Commission
Jonathan Gibson – Ad Hoc Telecom Group

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Selectman Potter

Approval of Agenda:

Aaron moved and Bert seconded to approve the agenda. Modifications: Parcel Mapping Agreement, Letter in Response to PUC Workshop regarding service provider battery power backup. Approved with modifications

Lister Education:

The process for reimbursement of out of pocket expenses and mileage was reviewed with the Listers, particularly with Ronnie who had paid for two (2) nights of accommodation and two (2) round trips to Burlington to attend a VT Dept of Taxes PVR course in respect to her official capacity as a Lister. The expense is reimbursable by the State via a Grant process. As it happened Ronnie has been waiting to get reimbursed for her considerable out of pocket expenses, it was determined that assumptions were made in the reimbursement processes which had caused delays in her actually receiving a check. The process of supplying receipts as well as prior notification of anticipated expense was reviewed.

There was some discussion in respect to the reimbursement of Town Official educational expense in general and reimbursement of mileage accumulated in the service of official business of the Town. The Selectboard indicated support for classes / educational seminars / conferences attended to further enhance individual's capacity to serve the Town. No particular resolution was determined regarding mileage.

GMP – Reliability Project Discussion:

Aaron reported that the GMP contacted him to postpone the discussion until September 4th.

Road Commissioner's Report:

Application for Work in the Right of Way:

Jamie was contacted by GMP in regards to an application to burying a new electrical line from an existing transformer (box) on Keiffer Rd. to a new construction site. The Road Commissioner submitted his concerns and comments for the Selectboard's review. GMP did not include the statutory requirement of a letter or easement from the property owner whose property would be affected.

Bert moved to approve the Work in the ROW application, Aaron seconded. Discussion: It was noted that no letter from the effected property owner was included in the GMP application. The motion failed unanimously. Arron indicated that he would contact GMP so that they might revise their application to include a letter from the property owner be included in the revised application.

Possible Work In the ROW Ordinance:

The Road Commissioner wanted to bring to the attention of the Selectboard, with this particular application, that there is a need for an ordinance to supplement the statutory requirements regarding Town Highways so that when contractors do work in the ROW that the process of trenching, laying of utility components and back filling that the contractor follow specified standards so that the roadbed is returned to the same roadbed standard as it was found. Jamie indicated he does not have the resources to repair dug trenches within the road bed, similar to what transpired during the VTel fiber-optic installation, especially along susceptible roadbeds throughout Town.

Gaynor Road:

The Road Commissioner wanted to bring to the attention of the Selectboard that after the recent washout of Gaynor Road and the impact it had on the rail bed at the foot of the road along VT Rte. 103, ANR has made specific recommendations to the Road Commissioner regarding Gaynor Rd and the removal of abandoned culverts and other infrastructure deficiencies that would need to be remediated depending on the use of the road in the future.

Shrewsbury Mountain School Plowing:

The Road Commissioner indicated that that in the past, the Town Highway Department would plow the Shrewsbury Mountain School parking lot as a service to the Town in so far as it has been a Town School District. In so far as it is now owned by the Mill River Union Unified School District, there is no longer a one to one correspondence with resources saved and the benefit of the Town. The Road Commissioner indicated that MRUUSD is supplementing Clarendon's school winter plowing, but Shrewsbury is still performing the task gratis.

Bert will be contacting MRUUSD to let them know that this coming winter MRUUSD will need to find another contractor to perform plowing in so far as Shrewsbury Highway Department does not have the budget to perform the task.

Cold River Rd Relocation Project:

The Town is in receipt of Change Order # 2 for \$13, 140 for additional gravel (the Selectboard noted that they were not notified prior that the Change Order was coming) and a request for Payment #2 after 77.1% completion of the project, amounting to \$89,250.08.

Bert moved and Aaron seconded to approve Change Order #2. Approved

Steven moved and Aaron seconded to approve Payment #2. Approved

Lottery Rd. Culvert Project:

No change in status at this time.

Conservation Commission Report:

Weezie Duda reported on activities by the Conservation Commission, indicating that the SCC is planning on holding a series of seminars on recycling from both a global perspective, highlighting the new global marketplace for recycled material and at a local level in respect to

new and upcoming July 2020 mandatory food scrape composting. The SCC was curious if the Selectboard had any particular input prior to initiating this project, such as raising fees, composting, efficiencies in the sorting process and the like. Bert summarized some of the details on plastic recycling and what steps have already begun in order to get ahead of the curve on composting of household food scrapes. There will be an article in the new Times of Shrewsbury highlighting what the Transfer Station is currently doing in the composting area. It was indicated that with the down turn in demand for recycled material the Town does not anticipate raising fees for the Pay As You Throw initiative.

Invasives:

The Conservation Commission reported on efforts to halt the expansion of some invasive and working in conjunction with ANR in continuing to develop successful Management Plans that have been recognized as good practices by ANR. Towns people are helping considerably in pulling and the SCC has been working with the Road Commissioner in scheduling mowing so that seed spread is kept at a minimum.

Town owned property:

With the discussion of invasive eradication in areas such a Mandigo Meadow (on the CCC Rd), a discussion ensued in respect to Town Owned land in general, and what the Town should or should not do with it. The discussion was tabled for the future.

The Selectboard acknowledged and thanked the Conservation Commission for their efforts for the Town.

New Business:

PUC Letter requesting additional Workshops:

Jonathan Gibson representing the ad hoc Telecommunications Working Group presented a letter for the Selectboard to support and sign for transmission to the PUC in respect to the Public Utility Commission and the implementation of the Legislative mandate of determining Best Practices in informing the utility customers regarding the battery back-up infrastructure utilized to maintain E911 compliance with FCC rules. Jonathan indicated that the Service providers have taken a “self-regulatory” stance and simply submitted letters of compliance with the PUC. However those compliance declarations do not meet the legislative standard of “best practice”, and wanted to solicit Selectboard support in bringing that fact to the attention of the PUC.

Bert moved and Steven seconded to approve the transmission of the August 21 letter on behalf of the Town to the PUC. Approved

Parcel Mapping:

The 2018 Parcel Maps have been received with a request by the current vendor for an agreement for next year’s mapping effort.

Bert moved and Aaron seconded to approve the agreement with Russell Graphics for the 2020-2021 Parcel Map data. Approved

Minutes:

Bert moved and Steven seconded to approve the minutes of 8/7/2019. Approved

Open to the Public:

No members of the Public present

Orders:

Bert moved and Aaron seconded to approve:

Selectboard Orders #8A of 8/21/2019 of \$3,077.08 and Road Commissioner Orders #8A of 8/21/2019 for \$ 122,143.80. (Note: Includes \$89,250.08 for the Cold River Rd Relocation Project and ~\$21,000 for gravel for repair of Mitchell Rd.) Approved

Dave Mellor's name was drawn for the \$10 punch Card for the Transfer Station.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Goodwin, Town Clerk

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.