

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Asher Barnum; Ty Roland and Toby Talbot (East Montpelier Ambulance); Fire Chief Will Schwarz

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** water fountain

**Public Comment:** none

**Minutes:** approved the minutes from December 21, 2021

**Planning Commission:** Asher Barnum attended to express interest in the Planning Commission. He has read through the town plan and zoning regulations and is interested in becoming more involved with the town. The Board explained the roll of the Planning Commission. Rich moved to appoint Asher to the Commission. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Cabot Road/Route 2:** VTrans is working on the right-of-way issue and they will contact the Town when they have more information.

**East Montpelier Ambulance:** Ty Rolland and Toby Talbot attended the meeting to present the new contract. The contract includes an increase of 3% per year, the same as the initial 3-year contract. They are happy with the relationship and the Selectboard is also happy with the service that we have received. Rich moved to approve the contract. Michele seconded – all in favor.

**Town Meeting:** Bobbi and the Board discussed possible changes to town meeting. The legislature is considering emergency legislation to allow Australian Ballot again, but the draft bill is not available yet. Changing the date of town meeting may be an option, but there will need to be an Australian Ballot vote on March 1<sup>st</sup> for the Barre Tech Center anyway. The Board will hold a special meeting as soon as the legislation is available.

**Covered Bridge:** Chris will look at the footbridge and see how many planks need to be replaced. Michele offered to donate some planks that she has.

**Salary Increases:** Rich moved to increase wages as follows: Listers Meg Eberhardt – \$17.50/hour, Kathleen Hayes – \$16.50/hour, Laura Badeau - \$15.00/hour; all other employees will get a 1% raise + 5.6% cost of living adjustment. Michele seconded – all in favor.

**Fire Department:** Will reported that they found someone to restore the 1937 Fire Truck. The cost would be \$15,000. He would like the Town to pay for it.

**Generators:** Rich moved to hire Yankee Generator, Inc. for generator inspections at the Fire

Department, Old Schoolhouse Common, and Fire Department. Michele seconded – all in favor.

**Budget:** The town ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$244,000, primarily due to increased revenue and lower highway expenses. The Board instructed Bobbi to transfer funds to the Fire Department equipment fund (\$15,000), the Old Schoolhouse Common building fund (\$20,000) and the Highway equipment fund (\$45,000). Some of the remaining surplus will be used to keep taxes level. Rich moved to adopt the budget as discussed. Michele seconded – all in favor.

**ARPA:** The Board discussed the possibility of doing a mailing or survey for how to spend the ARPA funds.

**Old Schoolhouse Common:** Chris is going to get in touch with some people who might be able to serve on a committee to help prepare a capital plan for the building.

**Library Porch:** Black River Design has indicated that they will provide a drawing of the new porch, overlaid onto the existing plans for the building. The Board needs to assign a contact for the project. Rich will be the contact, and Susan will be asked to also be there.

**Picnic Pavilion:** Chris is going to talk to Nathan Phillips to see if he is willing to help with the design of the picnic pavilion.

**Water Station:** The Town has been awarded a grant for a water bottle filling station. Bobbi is getting more information about what would be required for installation.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the January 4, 2022 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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