

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Bob Popp, Ed Jalbert, and Taber Allison (Conservation Commission); Scott Ciampi (Road Crew)

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: hiring policy, cemeteries

Public Comment: none

Minutes: approved the minutes of the March 8, 2022 Selectboard meeting

Conservation Commission: Bob Popp asked if they need to get bids for the inventory, or if they can hire people that they know to be highly qualified. The Board suggested putting a notice on Front Porch Forum in case anyone else is interested. Bob will amend the VLCT standard contract and bring it to the Selectboard at another meeting. Taber thanked the Board for supporting the project and putting it on the ballot. It has been a goal of the Conservation Commission for several years. Rich moved to approve the grant agreement and have Bobbi sign the grant electronically. Michele seconded – all in favor. Ed Jalbert would like to apply for a tiny grant for a tool to remove invasive honeysuckle plants. The Board approved.

Stranahan: Ed is concerned about an aspen tree that is hanging over the Stranahan parking lot. He is going to try to cut it but if he doesn't get to it, he feels that the Road Crew should do it. The Board suggested that if Ed can't cut it, we should get Mike Baril to cut it, rather than the road crew. The Board agreed that if he can't do it, Bobbi is authorized to have Mike Baril cut the tree that is leaning. He can drag it to the edge of the parking lot and not clean it up.

Paving: Scott received a quote for paving several side roads. He questioned whether or not VTrans would be doing any paving on Route 2, and whether they would be doing the aprons. Rich wondered whether we could do the town roads at the same time that the State comes through, to save money. The Board will postpone the decision about paving until next week because there are representatives from VTrans coming to the meeting, and they can discuss piggybacking the paving projects together.

ARPA: The Road Crew has requested funding for a turbine blower to blow leaves out of the ditches, to reduce ditch maintenance costs. Rich moved to approve the purchase of the turbine blower and attachments, at a cost of \$9,505.90, using ARPA funds. Michele seconded – all in favor.

The Road Crew would like the Board to consider funding for a new screen for winter sand, and also a lean-to off of the salt shed. They would like to be able to store the trailer and other equipment, and mulch/materials. They would also like a plasma cutter to save time and save

having to grind edges.

Chris moved to have the Town make the one-time irrevocable decision to elect the “Standard Allowance” approach for our ARPA award in the amount of \$365,587 to spend on the provision of government services throughout the period of performance of the grant. Rich seconded. All in favor.

The Board reviewed and approved the ARPA page on the town website.

Highways: Scott reported that the prices for winter sand are the same as last year. Newton can start hauling sand as soon as the roads dry out. The Board approved.

Scott reported that the road crew is having trouble turning around on Huntington Road. Rich suggested that the Town should be looking towards getting easements for turnarounds. Scott will look at the neighbor’s property to see if there is a better place for a turnaround.

Library Porch: The Board agreed to pay for the design of the library porch with ARPA money. The design is almost ready. The next step is to submit it to the state for a permit, and to the DRB for a zoning permit.

Personnel: The Board authorized Bobbi to sign the contract for short and long-term disability insurance for town employees.

Hiring Policy: Bobbi asked the Selectboard to enact a hiring policy, so that the required paperwork can be completed before a person starts working. Bobbi will check with VLCT to see what the Selectboard’s authority is regarding hiring procedures.

Cemeteries: Joe Mangan emailed to ask the Selectboard if they want to consider green burials. They will discuss this at a later meeting.

Dog Complaints: The Board received a complaint from Carol Donald regarding a neighbor’s dog. The complaint was referred to the Animal Control Officer.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved a 2022 license for Marshfield Convenience Plus.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the March 29, 2022 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
