

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, April 02, 2024, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Justin Campbell, Chris Whalen and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Assistant Town Clerk Brittany Chouinard; Chris Cyr, McCaden Lyford, and Michelle Redmond (VTrans); Mia Roethlein; Kate Smith; Will Schwarz (Fire Chief); Scott Franks (Property Manager)

At 5:32 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Justin Campbell.

### **Changes or additions to the agenda: Dog abuse complaint Review and approval of minutes: tabled**

**Eclipse Preparations:** Kate Smith is concerned that people will want to view the eclipse from the Moon Field on Jake Martin Road. She is concerned about people driving in the hayfield. She is proposing to block the access to the field with a car (so that it can be moved in case of emergency). She will guide people to park along the road. Justin moved to appoint Kate Smith to do traffic control for Jake Martin Road and temporarily block the access to the field. Chris seconded – all in favor. The Stranahan parking lot is already closed due to mud. Kate will communicate with Steve Newton about his field. Mia noted that a car would sink in that field right now.

Bobbi reported that Pat Martin has called to report portapotties in the town's turnaround on Clarence George Rd. The Board asked Bobbi to contact whoever rented them to ask that they move them, and keep the road clear.

**Stranahan Stewardship Committee:** Mia Roethlein applied to be a member of the committee. The Committee supports her appointment. Justin moved to appoint her. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Transportation:** Chris Cyr, Michelle Redmond, and McCaden Cyr from VTrans attended to bring the Board up to speed on highway grants. We are 21<sup>st</sup> in line for a Class 2 grant but 11<sup>th</sup> in line for a structures grant. She encouraged the Town to apply anyway because it shows the legislature that there is a need for the money. The Board asked Bobbi to apply for an engineering grant for Creamery Bridge, and a Class 2 roadway grant for Cabot Rd. Michelle reminded the Board that VTrans can do hydraulic studies for anything up to 20'.

**Emergency Response Plan:** The Local Emergency Management Plan was discussed. The plan will need to be readopted by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Department:** Chief Will Schwarz attended the meeting to talk to the Selectboard about several issues. The Department has submitted a grant application for \$78,000 for SCBA's. The Department's SCBA's are out of date and they can't get parts. If they don't get the grant, they are going to need to pay for them either out of the capital equipment fund or the general fund budget.

He noted that a new pumper is \$450,000 so they do not want to pay out of the capital equipment fund. We only put \$15,000 per year into the fund. Woodbury puts \$60,000 per year. He would like to increase the budget by \$10,000 next year, to be split between the general fund budget and the capital equipment fund.

He noted that last year they had a record number of calls. They have spent 368 hours on scene last year. This does not include training or debriefing time.

Will noted that the station needs a new furnace, and there is money in the fire station building fund to pay for that and the concrete foundation for an addition. They will wait to replace the furnace until after the energy audits.

Will noted that almost all of the dry hydrants were destroyed during the flood. He is exploring options to repair them. They are difficult to maintain because they silt in and cause grit in the pump, which causes damage to the pump. He is exploring other options.

Will noted that every fire department needs more members. They are trying to get fire fighter training in East Montpelier. He would like to send some members.

Will updated the Board on the Simulcast Communication Radio System. He explained that the current system is cobbled together and antiquated. The State had promised money for a new communications system but it has been withdrawn because the funds were initially from the Department of Justice, and the DOJ has ruled that the funds can only be used for law enforcement, not EMS. The state is trying to develop a new statewide plan for dispatch but it might take years and in the meantime, Central Vermont Public Safety is working with Senator Sanders' office to ask for funding.

**Old Schoolhouse Common:** Property Manager Scott Franks updated the Board on several issues. There is still water coming into the elevator. He is looking for an engineer for the drainage issue but would like to address all of the required engineering at the same time. He has some new pipe material to fix some of the drain lines when the snow melts. He has been addressing the VOSHA issues. He is in touch with the fire extinguisher company. He is going to stay on as the maintenance person and will also do the cleaning. He stated that the propane stove is occasionally left on and VOSHA recommends replacing it with an electric stove.

**Culvert Policy:** Chris has started a draft highway access policy. He will do some research to answer some of the questions that need to be answered in the policy.

**Dog Complaints:** The Town received a complaint about animal abuse at Hollister Hill Apartments. The Animal Control Officer is following up.

The dog that was the subject of the complaint on Uncle's Way has been licensed. The owner has rehomed their other dog.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the April 02, 2024 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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