

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Justin Campbell, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Christian Meyer (CVRPC); Nick Seifert (Energy Committee); Sonia Carrasco; Chris Martin; Michelle McCormick;

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Baker

Changes or additions to the agenda: annual financial plan for highways, certification of codes and standards.

Public Comment:

Minutes: approved the minutes of the April 4 Selectboard meeting

Regional Planning: Executive Director Christian Meyer introduced himself and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. He explained that there are 23 towns in the commission. CVRPC is funded by town dues, and grants and allocations from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Vermont Agency of Transportation, Emergency Management, Buildings and General Services, and Clean Water Service program. Some of the projects that they can assist with are planning projects and updates, the Municipal Energy Resiliency Program, clean water projects, recreational economy funding, ACT 250 reviews, FEMA flood maps, and adjustments to zoning regulations. Rich asked whether the town would have to pay for services. Christian explained that grant writing services are at no charge. They can assist with transportation issues as well. They are not regulatory – their role is advisory and supportive.

Energy: Nick explained that if the enhanced energy plan is incorporated into the next Town Plan, it gives the town substantial deference in siting of large renewable energy projects. Rich asked how much time the Planning Commission would need to review the plan that the energy committee has prepared. Nick explained that the energy plan was written in 2019 and he will need to refamiliarize himself with it before he can suggest a timeframe.

Marshfield Dam: Nick explained that Green Mountain Power has done upgrades at the dam, and he would like the town to have an update on the work that has been done. He stated that they have done a great deal of work but the emergency spillway gate is still a log structure that can only be opened once, completely, and that would have effects downstream. He reported that Jason Lisai from GMP would be willing to attend the Selectboard meeting to answer questions. Nick will try to set up a tour in early May.

Electricity Cost: Nick reported that the 6¢ per kilowatt incentive has expired because the trackers are 10 years old. He reported that due to rule changes, there are also now charges that can not be set off by generation, no matter how much power is generated. However, the town still has room for more credits. In other words the power that is generated is still not enough to cover the reimbursable costs, so the town could still benefit from more solar or from an off-taker agreement.

Nick noted that the rule changes and incentive changes just happened so there will be more data needed but the Energy Committee will review and make suggestions.

Municipal Energy Resiliency Program: Rich explained that we can get energy audits at no cost to the Town. There are mini grants available for education. Having an energy audit makes us eligible for more grants for facility improvements. The Energy Committee is keeping an eye out for the grant applications, and the town will apply for audits of the Old Schoolhouse Common, the Fire Station, and the Town Garage.

Old Schoolhouse Common: Chris Martin showed the Board various flooring samples. The Board asked him to put the work in the schedule, and they will choose the material. Justin moved to approve the contract with Country Floors for up to \$12,368 for the entryway, the lower hallway (level two and level three), and the bathroom, and to authorize Bobbi to sign. Rich seconded – all in favor.

Heating system: Bournes replaced valves in the building but the heat is still on in some rooms. Bobbi asked them to come back under the project but the technician indicated that we need to have a check valve installed. We received a quote for \$937.93 for the installation, but Rich is going to talk to Bournes about whether this should have been covered by the recent project.

Cybersecurity: Rich moved to approve the proposal from Rural Solutions for \$1,200 for a cybersecurity audit. Justin seconded – all in favor.

Appointments: Justin moved to make the following reappointments:

Animal Control Officer	Heather Bent, Alana Vaillancourt
Cemetery Sexton	Joe Mangan
Conservation Commission Member	Ed Jalbert, Anne Reed
CV Fiber Board Member	John Morris
CV Fiber Alternate	David Mannix
DRB Member	Gary Leach
Energy Committee Member	Wes Cate, Ellen Keene, Anne Miller, Nick Seifert, Mike Xenakis
Fence Viewer	Chris Bellamy
Fire Chief	Will Schwarz
NEKWMD Board Member	Bobbi Brimblecombe
Pound Keeper	Four Paws Inn
Recreation Committee Member	Margaret Campbell
Recreation Committee Member	Drew McNaughton
Recreation Committee Member	Pam Quinn
Recreation Committee Member	Brad Washburn

Rich seconded – all in favor.

Cemeteries: Sexton Joe Mangan offered to fix the wall at the Dwinell Cemetery, at a cost of \$3,800 plus materials. The Board would like to have an estimate of the total cost including the materials, and they would like to know what other projects may be needed this year. Bobbi will check with him.

Legal Services: Rich moved to allow Bobbi to hire Attorney Carolyn Greaves for delinquent tax sales. Justin seconded – all in favor.

Recreation: Rich explained that the Recreation Committee is interested in building a walking trail on the Town Garage and Old Schoolhouse Common property. Some of the trail would also be on the Village property. This would be an extension of the existing nature trail at the OSC. Outdoor Gear Exchange has grants available for trail-building tools. The Board approved allowing the Recreation Committee to apply for the grant. Rich reported that the local bike group received two small grants for trailbuilding, signs, and events at Twinfield. These efforts are a result of the Recreation Planning process.

Annual Financial Plan for Highways: The Board approved and signed the plan.

Road and Bridge Construction Standards: The Board certified that Marshfield is in compliance with Town Road and Bridge Standards.

Marshfield Ecological Inventory: The Conservation Commission has completed the inventory. They are presenting the report at the Library on May 3rd. The Board will read the report and may attend the presentation, so they don't feel the need to have a special presentation at a Selectboard meeting.

Local Emergency Management Plan: The Board approved the LEMP.

Upper Depot Bridge: Justin has talked to Austin Construction and they have agreed to make the repairs to all of the beams. Rich moved to approve the bid in the amount not to exceed \$29,140.00 Justin seconded – all in favor.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the April 18, 2023 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
