

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Justin Campbell, Michele Gonzales and Christopher Whalen; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Assistant Town Clerk Brittany Chouinard; Zoning Administrator Lorraine Banbury; Kathleen Hayes; Steve Fiske

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Justin Campbell

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** cleaning position

**Review and approval of minutes:** The Board approved the minutes of July 16, July 30, August 6 and August 20.

### Flood Updates

**School St Bridge:** The Town received notice that the School St Bridge needed to be closed immediately due to one of the abutments being undermined. The Board feels that this is an exigent circumstance because further damage to the bridge could occur if it is not repaired quickly. Chris and Michele both offered large boulders but Justin explained that when we need material of the size for this job, it has to come from the quarry because we don't have a way to load it/transport it. Justin is going to check with contractors for estimates.

**Laird Pond Rd and Pigeon Pond Rd:** VTrans has conducted Hydraulics and Hydrology studies for the large culverts that were damaged during the flood. The H&H studies call for much larger structures than what is there. The repair at Pigeon Pond is only a temporary emergency repair. Justin is going to check with contractors for estimates.

**Request for Assistance:** The Town received a request for assistance from Capstone Community Action on behalf of Doreen Gilmore at 110 Cabot Rd. They were requesting assistance to elevate the mobile home. Lorraine explained that the resident would not allow her to enter the property to do an evaluation after the flood last year. The mobile home is substantially damaged, but it would not be eligible for elevation because it is already at the required elevation. Doreen is not interested in a buyout. There is some question about whether the damage is from the flood because the water was in the back yard. Justin thanked Lorraine for all of her efforts to clarify the situation. He doesn't think there is anything else that the Town can do for this situation.

**Creamery St Bridge:** The Board signed the grant agreement for the engineering evaluation and possible new design of the bridge.

### Buyouts

**Taxes and charges:** Bobbi explained that the taxes and water and sewer charges are not covered by the grant, so if they are not paid, the expense will be spread among the rest of the taxpayers. She explained that the cost would be approximately \$5,500. Justin moved that the town will only go forward with the buyout if there are no outstanding charges. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Next Steps:** The Town will contract with a demolition firm and will consider whether we can allow some salvage of materials.

**Funding:** Justin moved to cover the cost of the buyout, with the understanding that the state will reimburse the town within a few days. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Closing:** Chris moved to authorize Bobbi to sign the closing documents on behalf of the Town. Michele seconded – all in favor.

**Picnic Shelter:** The company that we were planning to purchase the shelter from has a prospective buyer (the Town of Tinmouth) for our shelter timbers. Justin moved to accept a memorandum of understanding from TimerHomes, agreeing to allow them to refund us for the timbers as long as the Town of Tinmouth gets their funding.

**Holt Rd Bridge:** Steve Fiske stopped in at the meeting to notify the Board that the Conservation Commission is meeting with VT DEC tomorrow to do a bioassessment above and below Holt Rd to determine what species of trout are above the stream. He is hoping that the findings can inform the decision about whether to keep a blockage at the bridge.

**Ordinances:** Bobbi asked the Board to consider increasing the penalty for unlicensed dogs. She explained the ordinance enforcement process through the Judicial Bureau. Kathleen Hayes stated that having that as an option was very helpful when she was the Constable in Plainfield. Chris moved to encourage the Planning Commission to include language regarding ticketing of ordinance violations in the next rewrite of the zoning regulations.

**Culverts:** The Board discussed the process for getting a culvert permit. They decided that while replacing a culvert permit requires a culvert permit, a curb cut permit would not be required unless the property is being developed or the use is upgraded. The cost of a culvert permit will be \$35; a curb cut permit is \$50. The Road Foreman or their designee will be authorized to grant the culvert permit.

**Center for Tech and Civil Life:** Justin moved to accept a \$5,000 grant for elections. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**PACIF grant:** The Board signed an application for an equipment grant for safety equipment.

**Maintenance and Cleaning Positions:** Teri Lloyd currently cleans the Library. The Board authorized extending her work to include the common areas and bathrooms. Bobbi will offer her the additional work.

**Meeting dates:** The first meeting in October will be moved to October 2<sup>nd</sup>, to allow the Selectboard members to attend the Green Mountain Power tabletop exercise.

**Cemeteries:** The Board executed cemetery deeds for Andrew Tibbitts, Joanne Tibbitts and Dean Carpenter, Craig and Lindsy Hull, Jay Luna and Jessica Tibbitts, and Susan Wilkie.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the September 3, 2024 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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