

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker and Christopher Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Margaret Campbell and Drew McNaughton (Recreation Committee); Scott Ciampi (Road Crew); Lucy Blue; Dexter Lafavour; Mark Mihaly

At 5:35 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** John Fowler Road, Picnic Shelter, Railroad Bed, OSC, VTrans grants

**Public Comment:** Dexter LaFavour introduced himself to the Board. He is running for Washington County senate. Mark Mihaly introduced himself to the Board. He is running for Representative.

**Minutes:** tabled

**Recreation:** Margaret and Drew asked for permission to install an ice rink on the right side of the driveway. They would like to spend \$700 – 800 for a liner for the rink. Rich suggested that if they want to put in a larger rink in the future, there may be grants available. He also suggested looking at a surface that could be used in the summer for volleyball or something like that. Rich moved to approve purchasing the liner. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Highway Equipment:** Scott provided a quote for a new trailer for the excavator. The quote for a trailer with ramps is \$16,889. The cost of a tilt trailer would be roughly \$19,000. Since the last Selectboard meeting, the Road Crew has tried out the John Deere excavator and they are happy with it. They have had good luck with the Komatsu loader but the Komatsu excavator was more expensive. Rich moved to purchase the John Deere, with the condition that Scott will check whether there is a state contract on excavators. Chris seconded – all in favor. Scott will get a quote for the tilt trailer.

Scott got a price of \$160,000 for a new roadside mower. The Board discussed the pros and cons of renting, and the possibility of buying just a mower and keeping the tractor, or sharing with or renting from another town. Scott thinks we can get a couple of years out of this one but we should start including the tractor in the equipment schedule.

The Board discussed renting a machine that cuts brush. Using the machine would make it safer for the Road Crew, and opening up the canopy to allow sun to hit the roads would help with ice and mud. They will consider putting money in next year's budget for equipment rental.

**Railroad Bed:** Rich suggested that the section of the railroad bed that is Class 4 road could be improved. There are grants available but they are usually not awarded for Class 4 roads. Greg Western from the Cross Vermont Trail Association would be willing to assist with grant-writing.

Forest Farmers have requested a culvert across the railroad bed to alleviate the problem that occurred last year. Scott noted that they can not have a driveway culvert because of the location of the power line under the road. He indicated that the road crew will not have time to do that job this year. The Board will give Forest Farmers permission to do the work as long as they follow the town's road construction standards.

**John Fowler Road:** The Board discussed the problems with traffic being detoured around the Plainfield bridge construction and coming down John Fowler Road, an extremely narrow road. There were three accidents in one day. The problem seems to be that the sign on Route 2 coming from the west says that Main Street is closed, and people may think that Route 2 is Main Street so they take the detour. There have been reports of tractor trailers coming down John Fowler Road that could have stayed on Route 2. Lucy Blue asked the Board to put up a sign at the ends of John Fowler Road, indicating that the road is narrow. Bobbi suggested that the Town of Plainfield should be asked to put up signs. Lucy will relay to the Plainfield Selectboard that we would like to see the sign on Route 2 changed.

**Old Schoolhouse Common:** The Board discussed the maintenance position. New England Municipal Consultants has notified the Town that they will not be renewing their lease at the end of the year. The Selectboard indicated that the rent hasn't changed in several years. At the next meeting, they will discuss whether to rent the space, or convert it to a meeting room or some other purpose. They will also discuss whether to raise the rents.

**Fuel Bids:** The Board received bids from Gillespie. No other vendors submitted bids. The Board chose the fixed price for heating oil and propane. Gillespie did not offer a fixed price for diesel, so the Town will have to accept the floating price for that.

**CVFiber:** The Board appointed David Mannix as a second alternate to the CVFiber board.

**Cemeteries:** The wall at the Dwinell Cemetery has fallen over. Rich asked whether we need the wall, or whether we could put up a fence or not have any boundary around the cemetery. Chris noted that there has always been a wall there, but the cemetery was created when there were no cars, and as the road has gotten wider it has probably impacted the cemetery. He worries that if we put the wall back, it will likely happen again over time. The Board did not make a decision at this time. They approved having the new Eaton Cemetery green burial area raked out. They did not agree to start selling lots until after they revise the cemetery rules.

**Picnic Shelter:** The Town received a Recreation Facilities grant towards the shelter. In the grant application we asked for \$25,000 but we were awarded \$18,000. The Board will go ahead with the bid process.

**School Street Bridge:** The Board signed the reimbursement requests for the bridge project.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They signed a curb cut permit for Johnathan Mathews.

The meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the October 18, 2022 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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