

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes
March 20, 2017**

Selectmen Present: Mary Gavin, Luke Pettengill, Kevin Gish
Staff Attending: Margy Becker, Selectboard Asst.; Deb Jones, Finance Manager;
Tim Higgins, Road Foreman
Visitors: Steve Libby, VT River Conservancy; Joe Ronan (resident), Clare
Holland, Sue Sellew (Planning Commissioner)

Call to order: Mary Gavin called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

1. Review & Approve Minutes:

Motion by Kevin Gish to approve the minutes of March 8, 2017 with a correction to Item 4 (“review” should be “reviewed”). 2nd by Luke Pettengill. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Liquor License Renewal: Inn at Idlewood

Motion to approve the applications for renewal of liquor license and outdoor consumption permits for the Inn at Idlewood by Kevin Gish, 2nd by Luke Pettengill. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Town Officer Appointments:

Joe Ronan expressed interest in the Planning Commission vacancy. Selectmen expressed their hope that people interested in being appointed to the Planning Commission first attend a meeting of the Planning Commission. Selectmen will consider filling the vacancy at one of the upcoming April meetings.

Margy Becker will contact current volunteers on boards and commissions whose terms expire in March to determine whether they wish to be reappointed. Members of the Conservation Commission, Energy and Recreation Committees are reappointed annually. The vacant Town Health Officer and Flood Bylaw Administrator positions were noted. These vacancies will also be advertised. These are both compensated positions.

4. Road Foreman Reports:

Tim Higgins indicated the Town had weathered the recent storm well. The new truck will be taken back to TENCO for an adjustment to hydraulics. It was agreed that the specifications for the FY18 truck purchase will be discussed April 3rd. It was agreed the Finance Manager will prepare bid specs for the purchases of guardrail and sand. Tim Higgins estimates 500 cubic yards of sand is needed. The Board and Deb Jones

discussed the feasibility of developing a Town schedule of equipment operating rates from time sheet data. Tim Higgins spoke of frustrations with the logistics of plowing the sidewalk around the corner at the Trading Post. Selectmen agreed to invite Rob Romeo to visit with the Board later in April.

5. Driveway Permit Approval:

Tim Higgins verified there is no need to make any changes to the shared driveway from Rte. 132 to the Spittle residence at #1313 VT Rte 132. This curb cut is just downhill of a box culvert on Rte 132 at Mosher Lane.

Motion by Luke Pettengill, 2nd by Kevin Gish, to approve the driveway permit for the driveway as it exists. Any future modifications to the curb cut will trigger another review before the Selectboard. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Rikert Property: Conveyance from VT River Conservancy to Town

Selectmen noted the differing perspectives expressed by voters on the question of whether or not the Town should accept ownership of the Rikert Parcel. The Board acknowledged the suggestion of voters that the Town should provide river access from the Julich parcel on south Rte. 14. This land is a shoreline parcel the Town acquired at no cost to the Town as a result of the Post-Irene federally-funded flood buyout program. The Board will research the existence of any limitations on future use of the property, due to the fact that federal community block grant funds financed the buyout.

Steve Libby of the VT River Conservancy and Mary Russ of the White River Partnership reviewed aspects of the proposed conveyance for the benefit of a new Selectboard member. Steve Libby distributed copies of The Management Plan, which is the working document to be updated by the Town and the VRC from time-to-time. The Town will become a named insured on the VRC's insurance policy. The VRC liability limits are sufficient (\$1-\$2 million). VRC will forward an insurance certificate to the Town. Steve Libby presented the Town with the VRC "Baseline Documentation Report", which verifies existing conditions on the property. The report will be used for monitoring the property for compliance with the River Corridor Conservation Easement. The VT River Conservancy and the VT Housing & Conservation Board co-hold the easement. A volunteer resident, Sue Sellew, has agreed to assist the Town with stewardship of the parcel.

Board members agreed to review the Warranty Deed and other closing documents. Approval of the conveyance is scheduled for a special meeting on Monday, March 27 at 6:00PM.

7. PSB Review of Proposed 500kW Solar Project (Rte. 132):

The Selectboard and Planning Commission have tentatively agreed to proceed to negotiate with Norwich Technologies regarding issuance of a Certificate of Public Good

siting a 500kW solar facility at 2238 VT Rte 132. The Town has argued the proposed location violates provisions of the Sharon Town Plan while also encroaching on wetlands. The proposed solar array has been reconfigured by NT to avoid the Day Historic District, yet the Town remains concerned of the visual impacts of the solar array. Selectmen agreed to meet with Planning Commissioners during its April 3rd Selectboard meeting to further discuss this topic.

8. Sharon I89 Park & Ride (Exit 2):

Deb Jones, Town representative to the regional Transportation Advisory Committee (“TAC”), briefly reported on TAC review of alternatives for expansion of the park & ride facility. The TAC voted to support the Town’s selected alternative, which is to improve upon the existing facility and only within the State right-of-way. Wayne Davis (VTrans) and a TAC representative will present a conceptual plan for approximately 30 parking spaces during the April 3rd Selectboard meeting.

9. Selectboard Goals/Policies:

Selectmen exchanged ideas for a Selectboard work program. A priority list will be developed. More discussions are scheduled for the April 3rd meeting.

10. Appointment of Alternate to EC Fiber Governing Board:

Resident Clare Holland expressed interest in becoming an alternate Town representative to the governing board of the East Central VT Telecommunications District (EC Fiber).

Motion by Luke Pettengill to appoint Clare Holland as the alternate representative to the EC VT Telecommunications District (EC Fiber). 2nd by Kevin Gish. Motion carried unanimously.

Mary Gavin reported EC Fiber has requested time on the April 3 agenda to discuss the status of its plans to run fiber into Commerce Park.

11. South Royalton Rescue:

Selectmen agreed to ask Hartford EMS and White River Valley Ambulance to attend the Selectboard April 20 meeting. Both entities will be asked to provide a quote to provide the Town ambulance service. The Selectboard will then compare those quotes with the proposed expense of South Royalton Rescue.

12. Finance Manager Reports:

Deb Jones reported year-to-date budgeted expenses are ‘on target’. Expenses are running 63% of budget and we are 67% through the fiscal year. She will begin providing cash flow projections in April and for the duration of the fourth quarter.

A budget for the VTRANS Class 2 paving grant was reviewed. It was noted that Pike has quoted an increase of \$12,500 over last year's estimate – for a total of \$229,000 to pave 1.4 miles of Howe Hill from River Road to Honey Brook. **Luke Pettengill made the motion to approve the Class 2 Paving Grant for Howe Hill. 2nd by Kevin Gish. The motion carried.**

Deb Jones reported she is also preparing an equipment safety grant for the benefit of the highway garage. The grant will be submitted to the VT League of Cities and Towns' insurance program ("PACIF"). The topic of town garage floor drains was raised. Selectmen agreed with the suggestion the road crew look into contracting out all vehicle maintenance and repairs vs. the cost of installation of a completely enclosed drainage system at the garage. Other area towns have pursued this route.

13. **Review & Approve Warrants:**

Check and payroll warrants were reviewed and approved as presented.

14. **Review & Approval of Pay Table:**

A pay table retroactive to January 1, 2017 was reviewed. The pay rates noted will remain in effect until changed by the Selectboard. **Motion by Kevin Gish to approve the pay table as submitted. Luke Pettengill seconded. The motion carried.**

15. **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Mary Gavin at 8:50pm. The Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Submitted by Margy Becker