

SHARON SELECTBOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft)
May 21, 2018

Selectboard Members present: Kevin Gish (Chair), Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin

Visitors: Cameron Clifford

Staff Attending: Deb Jones, Margy Becker, Brad Howe, Frank Rogers (Road Foreman)

Kevin Gish convened the regular meeting at 7:00pm.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comments:

Cemeteries: Cameron Clifford of West Hartford expressed appreciation for headstone repairs in Wallace Doubleday Cemetery at the end of Kenyon Hill Road (via Pomfret). He then expressed concern that the Town is not having the cemetery mowed. He has paid someone to mow it once. This is town-owned cemetery. Selectmen agreed mowing is important and that a budget needs to be agreed upon. The Town will look into mowing options. More discussions will be scheduled for the June 4 meeting.

Margy Becker reported Arthur Peale has expressed his wish to continue with headstone repairs again this Spring/Summer. A draft agreement for services has been prepared, which was briefly discussed. The amount of compensation is to be determined. Selectmen requested that Arthur Peale be contacted to determine the average cost for headstone repair and how many stones Mr. Peale envisions being able to repair over the summer months. Discussions will continue June 4.

Road Foreman Reports:

Kevin Gish commended Frank Rogers for recent maintenance performed on Downer Road. Residents have called to express their appreciation.

Road Foreman Frank Rogers reported the following:

1. Grading is underway; 6 – 8 loads of hardpack recently applied to Downer Road
2. No chloride application to-date due to enough moisture in the ground; Frank recommends magnesium chloride, because it has less of a negative impact.
3. The crew will need to modify a 6-wheeler for chloride application
4. The Howe Hill ditching project will occur June 4 – June 11;
5. Green Mountain Flagging has bid \$4,168; ADA Traffic Control also submitted a proposal for higher hourly rates for the Howe Hill project.

Motion by Mary Gavin to authorize the Foreman to hire Green Mountain Flagging for a cost not to exceed their proposal amount of \$4,168. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Willey Earthmoving hopes to finish the Broad Brook Road bank stabilization project next week. Plans have changed due to the amount of water on the uphill side. A precast outlet will be installed; the inlet will be poured in place.
7. Erosion Site 2 Broad Brook Road: Selectmen reviewed a proposal from Willey to repair another bank erosion site downstream from current site.

Motion by Mary Gavin to hire Willey Earthmoving to complete Broad Brook bank repairs at erosion site 2 for an amount not to exceed their lump sum bid of \$8,638. The motion was seconded by Joe Ronan and carried unanimously.

Margy Becker will rely upon the VLCT short-form model contract as the basis for an agreement for services. Frank Rogers reported only one lane needed to be closed during construction.

8. Backhoe Replacement Schedule: Selectmen confirmed the backhoe is scheduled for replacement and authorized the Foremen to proceed with research on costs/models.
9. Paved Aprons - Sweeping: Frank Rogers announced his attention to have the crew sweep paved aprons each spring. A lot of sand has accumulated on them, and this is a safety hazard. He intends to apply salt to aprons in the future.
10. Sand Screen Rebuild: The Foreman was encouraged to collect more than one estimate for this task.
11. Site Visit to Drum Heller Road: A site visit to Drum Heller Road to view a drainage problem at the location of the pond was rescheduled to Wednesday, May 30th at 4:30PM.
12. Tatro Driveway – Request for levelling: Frank Rogers reported he visited with the Tatro on Fay Brook Road. A grading plan has been agreed to. But this is a short-term fix only. When more material is placed on the road, the drop into the driveway will increase again. The longer-term solution for drainage in the vicinity of the driveway may include installation of underdrain and fabric.

Winter Sand Hauling:

Deb Jones presented results from 5 bidders to haul 7,000 tons of winter sand. Bids ranged from \$3.57/ton (Adam Stone Trucking) to \$5.25/ton (Willey Earthmoving). Bids were further discussed.

Motion by Mary Gavin to award the winter sand hauling bid to Adam Stone Trucking for \$3.57/ton with the option for a 2-year contract. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.

Norwich Technologies – Decommissioning Plan:

An agreement with the Town of Sharon requires Norwich Technologies, owner/developer of the solar farm at 2233 Rte. 132, to present to the Town a letter of credit in the amount of \$32,500 for decommissioning costs. Joel Stettenheim explained the difficulties he is having securing this financial instrument because the project is small. It was agreed he will continue to try to obtain

the letter of credit. Selectmen stated an annuity or bond would be an acceptable option. Joel Stettenheim will report back to the Selectmen in approximately one month.

The solar project is going well. NT is applying to the Public Service Board to amend the CPG to enable installation of higher-output panels to increase solar generation up to 500kW. The footprint of the installation will not increase. NT initially sought approval for a 500kW facility.

Ogden Lane Proposed Discontinuance: Public Hearing Continued

Selectmen reconvened the public hearing on the question of whether or not to discontinue Ogden Lane, a class 3 town highway serving primarily one property owner.

Kevin Gish reported the seconded site visit was attended by Frank Rogers, Kevin Gish, Joe Ronan, Margy Becker, and Alex Bird.

Observations from the second site visit with the new Road Foreman were reported. Kevin Gish noted the turnaround is cluttered with more junk than the prior site visit during winter months. The grader cannot turn around under these conditions. The one-ton could turn around.

A junk vehicle was observed on the bank above Quation Brook.

Motion by Kevin Gish to close the public hearing. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.

The Board commenced deliberations in open session. Frank Rogers stated the crew could maintain the road with the truck and belly scraper.

Selectmen noted they are no longer in favor of discontinuance, because of the precedent that would be set. It was agreed the Town should take another approach to resolve the matter of the chronic obstructions to the right-of-way, which have forced the road crew to back out into Rte. 132 while performing maintenance activities.

Selectmen discussed the feasibility of staking the limits of a safe turnaround for town vehicles and equipment, beyond which Mr. Ward's personal items cannot intrude. Mr. Ward will be required to keep the staked area clear of debris and objects.

Motion by Mary Gavin to discontinue Ogden Lane, a class 3 road. The motion was seconded. The motion failed 0 – 0 – 3.

The Selectboard has 60 days in which to issue its written decision and order affirming that TH26 Ogden Lane remain a Class 3 road. The statute requires legal notification to interested parties of the final decision.

Finance Manager Reports:

1. Dental Insurance Plan: Deb Jones noted a negligible increase of \$78/year in premium for the existing dental plan offered to town employees. She suggested the Town continue to offer the same plan to employees in fiscal year 2019, beginning July 1.

Motion by Mary Gavin, seconded by Joe Ronan, to continue to offer Northeast Delta Dental Plan 7 to employees in FY19. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Financial Management Questionnaire – Towns & Cities: Deb Jones reported the Treasurer had completed and signed the questionnaire, which must be kept on file for one year. This is an annual requirement by the State of Vermont.

Motion by Mary Gavin to accept the Financial Management Questionnaire based on current practices. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.

3. Pay table: Action postponed until the meeting on June 4th.
4. YTD Financials: Selectmen reviewed and discussed year-to-date budget reports and financials.

Warrants:

Check warrants were reviewed and signed. The first invoice from Willey Earthmoving in the amount of \$20,000 for stream bank repairs on Broad Brook Road was approved.

Deb Jones noted that Monday, May 28 was a holiday and therefore payroll would be processed on May 24th. Selectmen agreed to sign the warrant on Thursday.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Joe Ronan to approve the minutes of May 7, 2018 with one change as noted. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Selectboard Assistant Report:

1. FY19 Class 2 Roadway Grant Award:

Motion by Mary Gavin to accept the VTRANS Class 2 roadway grant in the amount of \$175,000 in support of shim and overlays on certain paved roads as outlined in the Paving Capital Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

2. Dept. of Public Safety Subgrant (re: FEMA DR4330 Gravel Roads Repairs):

Gravel road repairs after the July 1, 2017 rain event cost the Town \$36,624.64. There are additional costs for culvert replacements. The Town has received a subgrant agreement from the Department of Public Safety to enable the Town to request FEMA funds for the

emergency road repairs. A separate subgrant will be apply to culvert repairs expense reimbursement.

Motion by Mary Gavin to authorize the Selectboard Assistant to sign the VT DPS subgrant agreement #02140-84330-033 in support of FEMA reimbursement for the federal share of expenses (\$27,468.48) for emergency road repairs resulting from the July 1, 2017 storm. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.

3. Holden Engineering Proposal- Assistance with Paving CIP Implementation:

Selectmen expressed concern regarding the cost of a proposal from Holden Engineering for services related to implementing the Paving CIP. Further consideration of the Holden proposal will resume June 4th.

4. Margy Becker proceeded to discuss the status of various work activities including building maintenance, repair/replacement of the Town sign on The Green, and IT services.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mary Gavin, seconded by Kevin Gish, to adjourn at 9:37PM. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker