

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 6, 2019
Minutes (DRAFT)**

Board Members Attending: Joe Ronan (via telephone), Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin
Staff Present: Margy Becker, Deb Jones, Frank Rogers
Members of the public: Joyce Dion, Robert Dion, Kevin Davis (Norwich Technologies)

Vice Chair Kevin Gish convened the meeting at 6:30PM. Joe Ronan called into the meeting at 6:30PM and continued to participate via telephone for the duration of the meeting. Due to open meeting law requirements, Selectboard votes will be by roll call.

Public Comments: There were none.

Review/Approve Agenda: No changes were made to the order of business.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of April 29, 2019 special meeting as modified. Kevin Gish seconded. Roll call: Ronan: yes; Gish yes; Gavin yes. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Road Foreman Reports:

Frank Rogers presented his reports concerning **beaver activity** in the vicinity of the Downer CC pond on Downer Road. Beavers are plugging a 24" roadway culvert. Half of the road washed out as a result last weekend. Road crew members are having to rotate daily culvert inspections in the interim, until a solution to the problem is agreed upon.

Discussions were attended by Joyce Dion (Downer Road resident), who has worked closely with the US Forest Service, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and the Downer Camp over the years to monitor and control invasive weed growth on the pond. Beavers play a role in the management of invasive weeds.

Selectmen expressed willingness to consider beaver management options excluding removal, though trapping is an option. Mary Gavin reported she has been in contact with Nathan Potter to inform him of the situation. Nathan has trapped and moved beavers for the Town in the past. But he needs permission from the Game Warden to do so.

Frank Rogers reported the road crew has moved a beaver deceiver device from Krivak Road, where it is no longer needed, to the pond. At Joyce Dion's suggestion plans were put in motion to arrange a meeting with the ANR beaver technician to assure proper location and connection of this device, and to discuss other beaver management options. She estimates three active beavers.

Replacement of the existing 24" wide culvert with a 48" wide culvert was discussed. Frank Rogers noted that when the crew formerly replaced an undersized culvert on Krivak Road with a 60" wide culvert, beavers lost interest in, or were no longer able to, plug the culvert.

The Downer Road culvert upgrade will involve a temporary road closure of 1 to 2 days. The entire project may involve 3-4 days of road crew time and equipment, in addition to subcontracted equipment (excavator). The ANR stream alteration engineer will be consulted prior to commencement of work. Joyce and Bob Dion suggested the pipe length should be increased. Deb Jones called attention to a \$12,000 FY19 highway infrastructure budget line item as a potential source of funds to cover the cost of the emergency repair.

Mary Gavin made the motion to authorize the road foreman to replace the 24" culvert with the appropriately-sized culvert after consultations with ANR beaver experts and Scott Jensen. Kevin Gish seconded. Roll call: Ronan yes; Gish yes; Gavin yes. The motion carried.

Frank Rogers agreed to contact Terry Rogers to discuss rescheduling the Howe Hill ditching project in light of the need to conduct this emergency repair on Downer Road. With Joyce Dion's consent, her report concerning overall CC Pond health and invasive weed control activities was postponed until the May 20th Selectboard meeting.

Frank Rogers then reported on the **status of the short-span bridge at the bottom of Quimby Mountain Road**. Emergency repairs to a headwall are needed. Selectmen requested a minimum of three estimates for potential concrete work. Scott Jensen will also be contacted regarding whether or not a permit is needed for the repair.

Frank Rogers concluded his reports by informing Selectmen his truck (a 2017 Freightliner with a Meritor front end), needs to be repaired again and will be in the shop by the week's end. Though the front end (ring gear) was repaired in February, the same repair is required again. The repair will be \$6 - \$8,000 dollars. The truck has only 18,000 miles on it. Frank Rogers reported that Meritor would not consider the second repair a warranty repair. Other towns in the area are faced with the same problem of Freightliners with front ends that are too small. Selectmen Joe Ronan encouraged town staff to push back against Meritor. Deb Jones reported that Freightliner has to provide the town a loaner truck, because she negotiated this as a condition of purchase.

Horizons Engineers – Paving CIP Implementation:

Robert Harrington met with Selectmen to review suggestions for a revised approach to tackle deferred maintenance to paved roads as a result of the financial impacts of Tropical Irene. The biggest change in recommendations concerns Howe Hill. Robert Harrington noted that Howe Hill took a real beating over the winter. Horizons suggests a short-term investment in a 1" shim with emulsifier to buy a few (2-3) years' functionality while funds are secured for the major reclamation and paving estimated to cost more than \$800,000. He suggested that if the Town does not do some type of interim repair, it will lose the road. Horizons notes at minimum five (5) culverts need to be upgraded prior to shim work, but he will confirm with Sharon road crew.

Culvert replacements on River Road between the steel bridge and Howe Hill should also be a priority, since some are failing due to improper installation. Horizons recommends the trenches be allowed to compact for one year prior to a 1" overlay next year in 2020.

Robert summarized recommendations for crack sealing, noting cracks are already evident on the newly-paved portion of Rte. 132. Horizons recommends that Rte. 132 should be crack sealed this year, in addition to Beaver Meadow Road and River Road from Howe Hill to the Royalton town line.

Horizons is also recommending the Town consider reclaiming pavement on Broad Brook Road, Fay Brook Road, and Quimby Mountain Road and reverting to gravel. Paved aprons could be retained. Horizons suggests the pavement grinding on those roads take place in 2020. If a paved surface is still desired, the Town could pave those segments when Howe Hill is paved.

Robert Harrington fielded several questions from Selectmen and Finance Manager Deb Jones concerning Horizon's departure from the original CIP recommendations. Robert Harrington agreed Horizons will provide present worth figures that illustrate why their recommendations will save the town money. This presentation will occur on May 20. Selectmen requested that Horizons' final report on May 20 also contain cost projections and a budget aligned with the original CIP as a comparison.

Sand Hauling:

Deb Jones reviewed several possible scenarios for minimizing the expense of sand hauling to the Town.

Mary Gavin made the motion to offer a sand hauling contract for 5,000 tons at \$10.00/ton (D & D Excavating, Inc.) and that the Town commit to purchase 3,000 tons of super grit sand from Twin State Sand & Gravel at \$9.15/ton. The motion was seconded. Roll call: Ronan yes; Gish yes; Gavin yes. The motion carried.

Driveway Permit Applications:

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve a driveway permit application from Robert and Joyce Dion at 1644 Downer Road. The motion was seconded. Roll call: Ronan yes; Gish yes; Gavin yes. The motion carried.

Selectmen requested additional time to inspect Steve Rikert's proposed curbcut on Broad Brook Road. Margy Becker will report back to the applicant that the application will be acted on May 20th.

Generator Bid review:

Dan Jones joined Margy Becker to present two generator bids. Vendors have differed slightly in their approach to providing emergency power to the Old School House building and Town Offices. After brief discussions Selectmen agreed to request bidders consider only one generator

to power both buildings. The agreed upon location is to the rear of the Town Clerk's office. Trenching for conduit should only be considered between the two buildings and not across the front of the Old School House. Dan Jones will also speak to TSA regarding whether or not it would pay for the difference in generator size needed to power all systems at the Old School House versus essential circuits needed to push water to the Town Offices.

Norwich Technologies: Decommissioning Rte. 132 Solar

Kevin Davis provided documents for financial assurance of decommissioning for the Board's review. Kevin stated the mortgage secures the town's interest. Mr. Davis also reported that any conduit buried at greater depth than 12" would stay in the ground at the time of decommissioning. Selectmen agreed to review the mortgage document prior to sending it to the Town's attorney for review. Mr. Davis will return at the May 20 to present information concerning another proposal for a solar array on Rte. 132.

Emergency Planning:

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the 2019 Local Emergency Management Plan. The motion was seconded. Roll call: Ronan yes; Gish yes; Gavin yes. The motion carried.

Kevin Gish, who has received ICS 402 training, signed the adoption form for the plan. Margy Becker will file the plan with TRORC and with VT Emergency Management.

Downer CC Pond:

A report from Joyce Dion concerning the status of the pond and management of invasive weeds was postponed until May 20th.

Job Descriptions:

Adoption of the final job description for the Selectboard Assistant and Finance Manager was postponed to May 20th at the request of Margy Becker.

Finance Manager Reports:

Mary Gavin made the motion to authorize the Finance Manager to sign the Loewen Window estimate for Old School House basement window installations in the amount of \$2,646.21. Kevin Gish seconded. Roll call: Ronan yes; Gish yes; Gavin yes. The motion carried. On May 20 Selectmen will act on a proposal for labor costs to install a rolling stair case to the garage mezzanine.

Selectboard Assistant Report:

Margy Becker will follow-up with Horizons Engineering concerning compliance reports due by July 15th under the Rte. 132 stormwater operational permit. This year an engineer's statement of

compliance is required in addition to the annual inspection report of the stormwater infrastructure along the road.

Annual Appointments Cont'.

Motion by Mary Gavin to appoint Jason Flint as the town's Emergency Management Director (EMD). The motion was seconded. Roll call: Ronan yes; Gish yes; Gavin yes. The motion carried

Motion by Mary Gavin to appoint Susan Root as Emergency Co-Coordinator. The motion was seconded. Roll call: Ronan yes; Gish yes; Gavin yes. The motion carried

Approval of Warrants:

Check and payroll warrants were reviewed and approved.

Adjournment:

Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 9:00PM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker