

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2021
MINUTES (DRAFT)**

*This meeting was held in compliance with the Vermont
Open Meeting Law with Electronic and Telephonic Participation*

Participating via Zoom: Selectboard members Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin, Kevin Gish; Frank Rogers (Road Foreman), Margy Becker (SB Assistant), Deb Jones (Finance Manager), Margaret Raymond (Treasurer), Ira Clark (resident), Michael Sacca (Alliance for VT Communities “AVC”), Donna Foster (resident), Warren Johnston (“AVC”), Dick Ruben, Sharon Conservation Commission, Tracy Zschau; Sara Danly (VT Council on Rural Development).

1. Call to Order:

The Chair convened the meeting at 6:35PM.

2. Review/Approve Agenda:

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the agenda. Mary Gavin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments:

There were none.

4. Highway Business:

Road Foreman Reports: Frank Rogers reported

- a. VTRANS is staging equipment along River Road on EPE Corporation Property. The staging area is associated with the I89 bridge overpass repairs.
- b. Roads are posted;
- c. The grader hydraulics had frozen; thus it is again being stored in the garage. It needs a heated space;
- d. Frank reviewed estimated costs for construction of mezzanine-level office. Materials costs are estimated at \$1570 (Bethel Mills); \$1650 for electrical work (Fifield Electric). Selectmen requested Frank consult with the State Fire Marshall prior to construction.

Request to Close CL4 section of Dyer Road to Traffic:

A resident of Dyer Road, Val Boles, has submitted written comments suggesting the Selectboard close the narrow and steep section of Dyer Road where it intersects with

Carpenter Road. For the past two winter seasons the Town has not performed winter maintenance along that section of road. The Town stopped maintaining that section of the road in 2018, except for ditches. Frank Rogers noted the narrow profile of the road made it difficult to establish and maintain ditches.

Resident Ira Clark encouraged the SB to keep the CL4 section open. He noted Dyer Road is a popular route for bicyclists. He asked why the public should give up two-way access along this section of road. Frank Rogers noted the common carriers, such as Fed Ex, use the section of Dyer Road as a short-cut. Kevin Gish commented he was not necessarily in favor of closing a section of road because it is also a popular walking route. Margy Becker noted the SB would be required to follow requirements in state law for public hearings and formal notice to adjacent landowners, should it decide to change the classification of this segment of Dyer Road. She suggested the Selectboard perform a site visit in April to assess existing conditions. Selectmen agreed. Margy Becker indicated she would follow-up with Val Boles.

Amendment to Traffic Ordinance:

Selectmen reviewed a brief amendment to the Town's traffic ordinance. The amendment would echo state law and prohibit plowing of snow across town highways. Once the ordinance is in effect, Windsor County Sheriff will be able to enforce the ordinance and issue tickets or assess civil fines. The Town attorney will be asked to review the proposed amendment, prior to further consideration by the SB.

FY22 VTRANS Highway Grants:

Frank Rogers commented the undersized metal culvert at the intersection of Krivak and Downer Roads needs to be upgraded. Frank also described repairs needed to the wingwalls on the short-span bridge at the bottom of Quimby Mountain Road. Concrete would be poured in place there. Such work may require a permit from Scott Jensen, River Management Engineer. Ira Clark inquired whether the road would be widened at the bridge? Frank Rogers responded no, the road will not be widened at this time. In subsequent discussions, Selectmen agreed to incorporate bonding provisions into the RFP for box culvert replacement being prepared for issuance by staff. This box culvert is located in the proximity of Morrill Hill Road.

Purchasing winter sand for next season:

Selectmen stated their concurrence that Deb Jones should issue bids for purchase of winter sand and 'super grit'. She noted there are currently only two area suppliers of the 'super grit' – Pike and Blaktop. Deb will also be bid sand hauling.

5. 2021 Green Up Day:

Dick Ruben joined the meeting and explained the Conservation Commission's plans for Green Up Day. Selectmen agreed to schedule Green Up Day activities for Saturday, May 1st

in alliance with State Green Up day plans. Dick Ruben agreed to follow-up with Frank Rogers regarding use of a town truck. The Solid Waste District has been asked to provide a roll off container for the tire collection. Kevin Gish noted his interest in exploring the costs of town-wide recycling collection. Curbside collection may be too expensive. Yet there may be other ways to promote an increased rate of recycling to reduce the amount of trash along the roadsides.

6. **VCRD 4-Town Americorps VISTA Position:**

Sara Danly of the Vermont Council for Rural Development (“VCRD”) met with the SB. She reported the position at GMEDC has received official approval from Americorps. Royalton, Tunbridge, and Strafford have pledged \$1,000 each to help underwrite year one costs for the position. VCRD and the Alliance for VT Communities have both pledged contributions of \$1,000 each.

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve an appropriation of \$1,000 from the FY22 budget for payment to GMEDC in support of the 4-Town Americorps Vista position. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **Investment Policy Review:**

SB members and Treasurer Margaret Raymond agreed to postpone discussion of Joe Ronan’s modifications to the draft investment policy to April 5th.

8. **Ashley Forest Joint Committee:**

Joe Ronan noted the Ashley Forest article was approved by Strafford voters on their town meeting day. Sharon SB members confirmed their intent to make appointments to the negotiating committee considering a draft inter-local contract and other various agreements for management of the proposed 2-town community forest. Michael Sacca agreed to forward the draft documents in their current form.

Mary Gavin made the motion to appoint Kevin Gish (as Selectboard member) and Dick Ruben (as community member) to the Joint Committee with Strafford. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried 2-0-1, Ronan and Gavin voting for the motion and Gish abstaining.

9. **Copier lease renewal:**

Deb Jones reported the Town Clerk has had a good relationship with Symquest regarding servicing the existing copier/scanner in her office. Debbie would like to continue leasing from Symquest. The current lease expired in February, and Symquest’s proposed replacement lease is for a very similar but updated copier/scanner compared to machine. The cost of the proposed lease (\$118.50/mo) is less than what the Town was paying at the end of the lease period (\$143.10).

Deb Jones explained Symquest has also forwarded a revised proposal, inclusive of 36 and 48 month lease options and a fixed service rate for the term of the lease. The total cost of the proposed 5-year lease option remains \$97.51/month plus the \$21/month service contract for a **total monthly cost of \$118.51**. The proposal indicates the service rate will stay at 7 cents per copy for an estimated 3,000 copies per month. **SB members agreed to proceed with the 5-year lease option in the SymQuest revised proposal as noted.**

10. Finance Manager Reports:

Deb Jones noted the upcoming transition in town clerks. Debbie St. Peter has asked for compensation while she trains the incoming clerk who will assume office after May 8th town meeting. A rate of compensation was agreed to.

11. Selectboard Report for Town Report:

Joe Ronan will forward the SB report to Margy Becker by March 19.

12. Selectboard Assistant Reports:

Margy Becker reported the SB would need to meet in a special meeting to sign the town meeting warning. The earliest the SB can sign the warning is March 29. Debbie St. Peter is eager to finalize the ballot for the printer. Margy further suggested the SB cancel the special meeting scheduled for March 22nd to discuss **Hazard Mitigation Plan revisions** move that business to the March 29th agenda. Margy Becker will follow-up with the IC Team and Threat Owl. Margy Becker will follow-up with Geo Honigford regarding **DRB permit fees**.

13. Process for Ordinances:

SB members agreed to prioritize consideration of a means for enforcement of ordinances. Mary Gavin indicated she has been wondering if the Town should create a part-time position for this responsibility. This agenda item will appear on the next agenda.

14. Coronavirus planning/updates:

SB noted recent news of several cases in Sharon. Mary Gavin noted she has been very involved with South Royalton Rescue, which has had to hire a new Administrator.

15. Harlow Road – updates:

SB members held discussions in follow-up to another recent meeting with the Royalton Selectboard. SB members are preparing a letter to the Attorney General and Governor. Joe Ronan will also follow-up with the Town's Attorney regarding the Harlow Road situation. SB members will also contact Strafford SB members, who may also be dealing with a similar situation.

16. Approval of Minutes:

Postponed to the March 29th meeting.

17. Approval of Warrants:

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve Payroll Warrant for the period Feb 28 – March 13, 2021 with a cash draw of \$15,286.99. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve AP Warrant #1134 in the amount of \$20,777.66 with payments to BCBS for \$5861.37, to Cargill for 7358.40, to Casella Waste for \$42.86, to Chase Site Services for \$4755.00, to Compucount for 174.85, to EC Fiber for \$79.00, to Evans Fuel for \$2380.28, to Eyemed for \$57.67, and to Fastenal for \$68.23. **The motion was seconded by Kevin Gish and carried unanimously.**

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve AP Warrant #1135 in the amount of \$3,376.61 with payments to Fifield Electric for \$325, to Foley Services for \$56.48, to James and Susan Shumway for \$113.14 to reimburse them for a tax payment error made via online check payment, to Royal Auto for \$235.61, to Sanel Auto Parts for \$98.40, to the Herald of Randolph for \$62.93, to TRORC for \$2320.05 for progress payment on the Municipal Planning Grant, and to USPS for \$165 for postage for the Listers. **The motion was seconded by Kevin Gish and carried unanimously.**

Motion by Kevin Gish to approve AP Warrant #1136 in the amount of \$2,879.96 with payments to WB Mason for \$8.96 and to the Windsor County Sheriffs for \$2871.00. **The motion was seconded by Mary Gavin and carried unanimously.**

18. Adjourn:

Kevin Gish made the motion to adjourn at 8:35PM. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,
Margy Becker