

ROXBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2023
7:00PM – 10:22PM
COMMUNITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Jon Guiffre, Vice-Chair Rene Bouchard and Road Commissioner Dave McShane

STAFF PRESENT: Selectboard Assistant Tammy Legacy

PUBLIC PRESENT: Nick Laskovski, Edgar Mesquita, Clare Chomentowski, Wade, Holt, Carol Randall, Don Randall, Mary Bouchard, Dave Santi, Tim Martin, Arthur Smith, Bob Ketchel, Ben Pincus, Heid Albright, Eric Sigsbey, Jerry D'Amico, John Aberth, Yelena Synkova and family

1. Chair Jon Guiffre called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. No deletions or additions to the agenda.
3. Public
 - A) Heidi Albright asked for an update on the library steps. Jon will have it done before winter.
 - B) Edgar Mesquita joked about a toll booth for outer staters.
 - C) Wade Holt thanked the Board for the temporary bridge on Ladd Road.
 - D) Second Constable Dave Santi mentioned a conversation he had with the State Police. He mentioned someone that signed the junk ordinance petition was concerned for their safety.
 - E) Mary Bouchard requested a change in the minutes. She would like the word **regarding** be changed to **defending** in Public B).
 - F) Yelena Synkova asked the Board about their position on the possibility of the school closing. Jon stated the Board has not discussed this and encouraged the residents to attend future school meetings.
 - G) Don Randall thanked the road crew for repairing washouts on Bull Run Road.
 - H) Dave Santi talked about the consolidation of the Montpelier and Roxbury school districts. A Town without a School isn't a Town.
 - I) Ben Pincus commented on the recent school meeting. He said that people need to comment at the November 16th meeting. Jon explained the situation Roxbury was in prior to merging and why the two schools merged.
 - J) Edgar Mesquita talked about the school.
 - K) Wade Holt asked where he could get more info on the school. Rene Bouchard mentioned the recent Front Porch Forum postings from the school board. Schools are the heart and soul of the community.
4. Dave moved to approve the minutes of October 16 with amendments. The motion was seconded. Changes to the minutes are 3B, 7C) and 8D). The motion passed with all ayes.
5. Road Commissioner's Report
 - A) The 2018 International Truck is out of commission; it went into a ditch while loaded. Large repairs are expected; parts are backordered. Insurance agency has been notified. Approximate cost is \$40,000. The rest of the equipment is in good shape.

- B) Roads are in good shape. Pavement patching is being done on Steele Hill Road. Eric Sigsbey mentioned a sink hole on Shaw Road.

6. Financial Report

- A) The Board reviewed the orders. Dave moved to approve the orders. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes.
- B) Income received is: \$18,699.22 from the State for 4th quarter of highway aid and \$41,727.00 from the State for FY24 PILOT payment.

7. Unfinished Business

- A) Community Hall Project – The Board received the proposal from Black River Design. The initial design and code consulting services price is \$4,500 with reimburse allowance of \$100. Optional services were provided. The Board reviewed the proposal. Discussion on grants that may be available. The building is eligible for Historical Register. Discussion on whether there should be a commercial kitchen and having a fire suppression system. Dave moved to approve the proposal and move forward. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. Tammy Legacy mentioned the toilet has been fixed and the plumber is looking into the best way to resolve the water issue.
- B) Municipal Ticketing – Discussion on appointing an Investigative Office. The Board is waiting to hear back from the Sheriff on the Enforcement Officer position. The Board will discuss when they have more information.
- C) Town Garage – Discussion on rehabilitating the existing garage. Dave would like to hire a structural engineer for rehabilitation or re-use of the existing town garage. Dave has contacted engineers but have not heard back from them yet. Dave moved to approve the hiring of a structural engineer to investigate the existing town garage. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. Rene had talked to a State Forester about why the State wouldn't sell the gravel pit to the Town. He was told they wouldn't sell but possibly lease to the Town is an option.
- D) Tammy Legacy informed the Board that accepting credit cards will be available in the next week or two. This would be via on-line.
- E) Unlicensed Dogs – There are four households that still have not licensed their dogs. A petition on the amended dog control ordinance may be submitted by Janine Manninen. There was a discussion on the old ordinance, history of unlicensed dogs, the new ordinance and the process for issuing tickets. Multi-year dog licenses, rabies clinics and annual dog census was mentioned.
- F) Town Trapper – Gerry D'Amico gave a history of his helping the Town with beaver issues. There were objections and support to having an official Town Trapper. Jon acknowledged Gerry's service to the Town. There was a discussion on other ways to manage beavers and insurance coverage for volunteers and appointed officials. Instead of having a Town Trapper what about a Beaver Management Coordinator was suggested. There were concerns about wells being contaminated and properties being damaged by the beavers. The Board tabled this topic until the next meeting.
- G) Proposed creation of an Outdoor Recreation Committee - Rene stated he had talked to committees in other towns and was looking at different grants. If using State land for trails, do it collaboratively with the State. Working with other Town committees to work on advancements and creating a committee

was discussed. Tammy will post a notice advertising the committee and anyone interested should contact Tammy.

- H) Committee for Hazard Mitigation – Dave moved to appoint the following people with option to appoint more. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. The committee members are:

Lenny Davis
Mike Dickinson
Lucinda Sullivan
Bob Ketchel

8. New Business

- A) Listers Request – Error & Omission approval – Listers made a mistake when entering data for the sale of Natvig property. Dave moved to approve the Error & Omissions. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes.
- B) Listers Request – Catallis Tax & Cama Quote – Not enough information was given on this request. Tammy will ask Bill Hansen to come to next meeting to discuss the request.
- C) Vermont 250th Anniversary – Resolution – The Board received a letter requesting the Town approve a Resolution on the celebration of Vermont's 250th Anniversary which is in 2027. Anyone interested in being on a committee should contact the Board. No action on the Resolution.
- D) Town Solar Electrification – Rene had attended the 2023 Vermont Renewable Energy Conference. Roxbury's Energy Coordinator, Nick Laskovski, also attended. Discussion on putting solar on the Community Hall roof and looking into the best renewable energy project for Roxbury.
- E) Village Street Drainage – Discussion on sidewalk project, wastewater project and road drainage and having a capital plan for projects in the village, time frame and costs.
- F) VLCT additional insurance for UM/UIM. After discussing it, the Board decided they needed more info. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Other Business – Wade Holt asked about high-speed internet in East Roxbury. Jon stated that he did not think TDS would be going to East Roxbury for a couple of years with fiber optic.

10. Executive Session – Dave moved to go into executive session with an invitation to Tammy to join them. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. This will be for personnel matter. The Board entered at 10:05 p.m. and exited at 10:21 p.m. No action taken.

11. With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Tammy Legacy, Selectboard Assistant
Approved on November 20, 2023