



MONTGOMERY
FOUNDED 1793

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Monday, October 5th 2020
6:30pm

Full Recording of the meeting can be found here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/R6J04mTHQ_O5m2wMbiLHFys8fESJiLudp4M6pD4cpEKGQHVYe_nQ2YwmhugGuIZeg.MlfxHXrRIYmCRX0r?startTime=1601936755000
Passcode:4&&Z8V@p

Attendees: Charlie Hancock, Jacob Racusin, Leanne Barnard, Suzanne Dollois (left early)

Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild

Visitors: Larry Letourneau, Anita Woodward, Sue Wilson, Michael Snider, NWATV (recording meeting), Colin Sorenson

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda

Charlie added “Overweight Truck Permit for Endless Tracks, LLC under Administrative Matters and Updates on Town Website under New Business

2. Review/approve minutes of September 21st meeting

Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21st, Leanne seconded. Vote: 3-0, aye. Motion passed.

3. Public Works

a. Roads and Bridges

i. Grant updates

ii. Municipal Grants in Aid application

Michael reported that there is currently no funding for this application, but we are still going through with filing it so that our paperwork is submitted for when funding becomes available. There are a few other grant opportunities coming available, but it is mostly quiet due to lack of available funding. Michael reported that the Public Works department has been concentrating on FEMA work and putting up sand for winter.

b. Buildings and Grounds

i. 98 Main Street (*update—discussion re: USPS, TDBank ATM renewal*)

Charlie said that he sent out the letter to the USPS that was discussed at the last meeting, and we are just waiting to hear from the USPS.

ii. Generator repairs & service agreement (*discussion, potential board action*)

Charlie said that this item was reviewed at the last meeting and is on the agenda due to questions from the Board about specifics on the potential new service agreement. Details on service agreement were circulated to board. The consensus of the Board seemed to be that, despite the higher cost, Milton CAT would do a better job of servicing the Town's generators and potentially save money over time in repairs due to oversight. Michael added that the Town does have a long-standing relationship with Milton CAT, and they've done a good servicing garage equipment. Jacob made a motion to accept the generator service agreement from MiltonCAT, Leanne seconded. Vote: 4-0, aye. Motion passed.

iii. PSB/Town Office Renovation/RFP (*continued discussion*)

Charlie reported that the Library is interested in making some renovations and expansion. Given that the Town Office is looking at some renovation in the building, it would be efficient for a contractor to walk through with members of the Library board and Librarian to see if there could be efficiencies or economies of scale on the work to the building.

c. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) update re: Longley Bridge Road project (*update*)

i. Local Concerns Meeting October 19th (rescheduled from Oct. 5th)

Charlie reported that the warning to the St. Albans Messenger was not sent in time to meet the 2-week posting requirement before the meeting, so the meeting will be held on October 19th. Charlie also mentioned that due to some personnel changes at Dubois King, there are some questions around the allocation of budget figures, which should be clarified shortly.

d. FEMA (*update*)

Charlie gave kudos to Erin and Michael in cranking out the workbooks on the project areas to get this work done. The North Hill culvert was finished last week, and Michael mentioned that the submissions are going in at a rate of one every week.

4. Visitors

Larry asked whether the Mark Cyr driveway permit and the VEC ROW for Hill West Extension discussed at the last meeting had been passed. Charlie responded that yes, they were both approved.

5. Water Commission Issues

a. Hydrant Flow Testing (*discussion/potential board action*)

Charlie said that the Town typically opens the hydrants up to flush them on an annual basis. The flow testing is a different process, as it helps us understand how many gallons per minute we're getting to address any potential low-flow hydrants. It's important for both safety and for home insurance ratings. The Town has not performed a flow test since 2004, and it is something that might be performed annually, which should reflect better on insurance rates. The 'Fire Flow Inspectors' quote is about \$10k. We also received a quote from Brent Desranleau for \$2,420, who has experience working with local systems, including Montgomery's. This testing will happen either this fall or next spring, with notification given to all users of the system ahead of time. Charlie moved that we accept the quote from Brent Desranleau to conduct hydrant flow testing for \$2,420, Leanne seconded. Vote: 3-0, aye.

Motion passed.

6. Old Business

a. Policy for Political Campaign Signage on Town Property (*board action*)

Charlie recapped that this issue was brought up at the last meeting, and it was left for Board members to mull it over, talk to folks around town to gauge public opinion, and look at other towns' policies. Leanne mentioned that she had not heard strong views one way or the other. Jacob said he was leaning towards only signage broadcasting events but does not have a strong opinion. Charlie said that his understanding from people is that they do not particularly like the signs, visually, and with the underlying animosity around politics this year in particular, the general consensus is to not have signage on town property. He questioned whether this would be a policy or an ordinance; an ordinance would be a different process, which would need to comply with Zoning. Charlie also said that it might be better to wait until after a campaign season so as not to change the rules for candidates during the middle of the election season. Sue suggested implementing a policy that would make it clearer to not have people put signs in front of the Clerk's office or the Town Hall. Larry recommended defining what an event is for clarity. Charlie suggested that this conversation be tabled in order to gather more information and think through the issue further.

b. COVID-19 and Municipal/Local Response (*updates/discussion*)

Charlie reported that the state numbers jumped a bit this week, though with the total number of cases still under 2,000.

c. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (*update*)

Suzanne is still working with Doug on wiring; this item will carry over to the next meeting.

d. Wastewater and Streetscape Projects (*updates/board action*)

i. Status updates—WW flow design dialogue w/ANR

Charlie said that we are waiting on the flow design dialogue letter to go out to the ANR Secretary. The planning advance paperwork has all been filed, and we have received formal approval/availability for the 2nd phase of planning advance funds (these funds would not be paid back should the project not proceed to construction). The 3rd phase will support the next iteration of work. That will focus on more work around financing as well as potentially some test work around disposal sites; we are still waiting on clarification on combined agricultural use.

ii. Timeline—Action Items/Next Steps

e. Communications Union District Update

Everett reported that Richford has joined the CUD and more towns are considering joining. There are funds available for the wifi hotspots, which must be used by the end of the year. We are considering the Grange Hall for one hotspot. Jacob asked if Pratt Hall was still being considered for a hotspot; Charlie responded that he would mention that location to Everett.

7. New Business

a. Health Officer Appointment

Colin offered to serve again as the Town Health Officer, given his past experience in the role. Charlie said that there are a couple of other people who are interested in the position, and the Board will consider all the people who are interested. Charlie said thank you to Sue for her 3-year interim term serving as the Health Officer. For the next meeting, Charlie will connect to interested parties and talk to them about the position. This appointment does not meet the criteria for Executive Session, so it will be discussed in open session. The stipend has traditionally been \$150 plus some mileage, but it might need some adjustments, as that number has been static for many years.

b. Overweight Truck Permits - Endless Tracks, LLC

Charlie said that Endless Tracks is owned by Ivan Ainsworth and is for a single vehicle truck, with a maximum weight requested is 80k. Jacob made a motion to provisionally approve the uniform Overweight Truck Permit pending approval from the Road Commissioner, Leanne seconded. Vote: 3-0, aye. Motion passed.

c. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses

d. Update on Town Website

Charlie relayed from Zach that he has finalized some content for the site and the Town is looking forward to a full launch soon. The framework is complete and he is working on the plugins.

8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

9. Review Action Items for Board Members

10. Adjourn

Leanne made a motion to adjourn, Jacob seconded. Vote: 3-0, aye. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.