



MONTGOMERY
FOUNDED 1788

**Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
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Minutes of the
RESCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Temporary Town Office (86 Mountain Road)
Monday, August 5th
6:30pm

Select Board Members: Charlie Hancock, Darren Drevik, Leanne Barnard, Jacob Racusin

Clerk: Suzanne Dollois

Visitors: Sue Wilson, Larry Letourneau, Anita Woodward, Michael Snider, Joe Jones

Charlie calls meeting to order at 6:41PM.

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda

New Business add: h. Building complaint Roads and Bridges; i. Employee Health Insurance policy;

Old Business add: g. Road work complaint

2. Review/approve minutes of the July 1st meeting and July 22nd meetings

Darren made a motion to accept the minutes of July 1st. Seconded by Leanne. Unanimous 3-0, Mark and Jacob abstained (not present for meeting)

Jacob made a motion to accept the minutes of July 22nd. Seconded by Mark. Unanimous 4-0, Leanne abstained (not present for meeting)

3. Public Works

a. Roads and Bridges

a. Grants—*Status Updates*

→ Response in progress regarding the Longley Bridge Road bank stabilization project and designated town point of contact/project manager

→ Project on North Hill completed; waiting on final inspection. 3 segments completed (more than planned), 100 meters each completed with funding.

→ Work has started on the Lane Road

b. Brady Road

→ Pending

c. Update on Creamery Bridge clean-up

→ Pending

d. Fixed radar speed signs—request for installation to VTrans

→ Charlie will draft letter to Regional Director of VTrans. Locations need to be specified. 4 to be installed. 118 into Village from West; 118 into Center from the West; 118 into Center from the South; 242 into Center from the North.

e. Sign posts for new signs are ready

- f. Fuller Bridge estimate pending to repair damages. Blow and Cote contracted for work.
- g. Complaints regarding brush work on West Hill and Creamery Bridge. Clearing should be done on a 3 year rotation, which many roads have not been done in 8 or more years. Concern about culverts and buildup. Discussion ensued. While not perfect, method is most cost effective. Scale of impact due to interval between now and last round of work. Will work with road crew to mitigate where possible, acknowledge potential for issue in ditches.

b. Buildings and Grounds

a. Main Street Status/Repairs—*Status Update*

Jay Day will be in to do the tilework. Charlie was in with Jaime to do test holes in drywall; mold not exceedingly visibly apparent (though tests were limited in scale and location). Read address the building proposal with the new USPS Facilities Director.

b. Grange Repairs from vehicular damage

Ramp damages. Michael examined space, repairs needed. Contractor needed ASAP per pending state inspection re: ADA compliance and safety. Charlie will reach out to contractors.

4. Visitors

→ Joe: changes to Grand List. Three major changes to be approved.

Total reduction was \$80,200. Mark made a motion to accept the Errors and Omissions Certificate. Jacob seconded. Unanimous, 5-0.

→ Sue: wants to assure that the flags will come down right after Labor Day. Michael confirms.

→ Larry: proper cleaning needed for PSB public spaces.

→ Joe Sherman: described incident of his wife at the River Walk parking area, regarding an individual carrying a handgun responding to supposed incident on Hill West. Discussion ensued regarding individuals responding to local incidents, and concern of potentially violent response. Charlies noted that according to VSP and FCS there are not have been no police reports filed re: incidents in Montgomery, and concern that the alternative response has been self-assigned vigilantism. Charlie refers conversation to item 7.b.

5. Water Commission Issues

6. Old Business

a. Grant Updates

- i. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant (VEC)—Pending Grant Agreement
- ii. USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program—Pending
- iii. *Other*

b. Update on Montgomery Thrives Committees

- i. Northern Borders Regional Commission Economic Infrastructure Grant via Wastewater committee—not received. Wastewater committee did receive a Dept of Environmental Wastewater Planning Grant for \$35,000. Put out an RFQ for design plan. Second Grant in process.
Broadband and Streetscape surveys are pending. Broadband committee has spoken with State Radio Service Commission, particularly in regard to fire dept.
- ii. Community Planning Grant for Streetscape pending.

- c. Welcome to Montgomery Signs (*update*)
→Locations to be finalized in the next couple weeks. Landowner permissions need to be confirmed. Michael, Mark, and Charlie will review sites.
- d. Demar Road boundary line adjustment
→Window passed for petition. Documents being finalized. Signatures pending.

7. New Business

- a. Grand List Errors and Omissions (*review and board approval*), handled under visitors
- b. Franklin County Sheriff discussion (*review of conversation, opportunities*)
→Charlie met with Lt John Griougure (*spelling?*). Discussion around potential contract with FCSD crafted to address specific community needs, specific attention to enforcing parking ordinance on Rt. 58, and issues around activity/break-ins, etc. in Hill West/West Hill area. Prospective actions to address problem areas could be randomized drive-bys to those areas for designated duration. Response prospective to parking situation on Route 58 include ticketing by Brent and County Sheriffs Dept to enforce ordinance, which are validated through Judicial Bureau (ticket book delivery pending). Board expressed general support for occasional Sheriff presence to Town, also cognoscent of communities history. Charlie will follow up with FCSD on more detailed contract provisions.
- c. Judicial Bureau ticket books re: Ordinance Enforcement (*status*)
→Should arrive this week. See above notations.
- d. Local Option Tax (*introductory discussion, no planned board action*)
→Towns have the ability in statute to pass a 1% local option tax on 1) sales, 2) meal and alcohol, and/or 3) rooms. Discussion ensued around potential means for generating additional revenue without raising the municipal tax rate. Given the recent boost in independent rentals via Air BNB, VRBO, etc.; rooms tax could be municipally adopted that would not affect residents, but would be a 1% tax on lodging businesses (sensitive to existing 9% tax and impacts to local lodging establishments). Darren asked the local room rental businesses regarding prospective 1% tax increase on visitors, but now the rate on rooms would be higher than competitive towns Inns and B&Bs, which would penalize existing businesses. Could install an ordinance that requires AirBNB, VRBO, etc. to register and obtain local license, ensuring receipt of 1% tax. Carry over, no immediate action planned.
- e. Sister City Program
→Darren received email from the Town of Montgomery, Wales. They have passed Sister Cities ordinance, are seeing if we would be interested in being a Sister City. Letter to be received shortly.
- f. Sale of Ambulance (*process review, no board action planned*)
→Value currently undetermined. Sale of municipal property requires process. To be determined pending further review. Known buyer interested. Carry over.

- g. 18 month transitional budget (Calendar Year to Fiscal Year, *discussion*)
→Carry over.
- h. Building complaint
Complaint received re: 150 Main Street, in severe disrepair, request made by Montgomery resident re: Ordinance. Safety inspection requested. Building Safety Inspector needs to be authorized. Board will follow up with potential candidates.
- i. Employee Health Insurance policy
→ We offer family plan to Town employees that want to opt for it. But not determined for employees who have families, but are not legally married. What should the recommended protocol for that be? Will the insurance company allow the Town to offer a family plan in that circumstance? Will discuss with BCBS. Carry over.
- j. Overweight Truck Permits
- k. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses

8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

9. Review Action Items for Board Members

10. Adjourn

Jacob moved to adjourn meeting at 8:29. Darren seconded. Unanimous, 5-0.