



Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION

Monday, October 19th 2020

6:30pm

Unapproved Minutes

Full recording of the meeting can be found here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/hiSc8TTsFjsbCubWDat1wlyY88t4mG400wf8fv7ejG88GbHzjGvapB8Ht0PRRDSr.OWr3M54bbKwgVxPT> Passcode: ft3R\$iG#

Attendees: Charlie Hancock, Leanne Barnard, Jacob Racusin, Mark Brouillette, Suzanne Dollois
Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild Visitors: NWATV (recording meeting), Larry Letourneau, Anita Woodward, Linda Blasch (NWRPC), Sadie DeWitt

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda

Charlie added under New Business: Liquor License, 1st and 3rd Class, for Big Jay Tavern; and Petition for Speeding and Police Presence from Jason Chartrand.

2. Review/approve minutes of October 5th meeting

Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5th meeting, Leanne seconded. Vote: 4-0, Aye, 1 Abstain. Motion passed.

3. Local Concerns Meeting re: Longley Bridge TAP project

Charlie reported that the project is to help armor the bank of the Trout River along Longley Bridge Road; the local concerns meeting is required as part of the funding. Charlie opened the floor for any questions or concerns about the project and reported that the questions regarding the staffing changes at Dubois King have been clarified. Linda shared that the project is to stabilize about 1000 feet of bank along the Trout River, with potential buffer planting, bioengineering, and a floodplain bench. The bank has been eroding at a high rate in the past few years, and the work will also help protect the integrity of the road. She explained the process for the funding, which comes through the Federal Highway Administration and is multi-stepped. Jacob asked about what an intermediary emergency situation would look like, when the project isn't due to begin construction until 2022. Discussion ensued.

4. Public Works

a. Roads and Bridges

Mark said the sand and gravel pile are likely done, and there remains some work to be done on the equipment and preparing for winter. Suzanne asked about having a separate sand/gravel pile for community members to take from, and Charlie responded that we might look at taking a load to sit near the PSB.

i. Grant updates

No updates at this time.

b. Buildings and Grounds

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

No correspondence from USPS following our last correspondence; carryover. The ATM renewal has been exercised, which will not affect the building lease, as it will expire before the lease agreement.

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

Jacob and Charlie will get together to go over this issue soon.

c. FEMA (*update*)

The Regan Rd and North Hill Rd projects have all been submitted. While we are still waiting on reimbursement funds, that seems to follow a normal timeline, according to other towns.

5. Visitors

a. Sadie DeWitt re: passage of S.54 (retail cannabis)

The governor did not sign this bill but allowed it to become law. Sadie explained that part of S.54 is that towns need to opt in in order to take part in the bill by making an affirmative vote on Town Meeting day to allow retail sales of cannabis in the community. At the state level, the committee is still forming, and retail licenses are expected to be issued about 2 years from now. Charlie asked about the tax percentage breakdown. Sadie responded that there will be a 20% state tax collected on retail cannabis sales; 14% is a state cannabis excise tax and 6% VT sales tax. The 6% goes to after-school programs, and of the 14%, 30% goes to school cannabis education. Charlie asked about a local option tax; Sadie responded that localities cannot add a tax, but can issue licensing fees. Jacob asked about support of entryways for those people who have suffered from cannabis prohibition in the past and how the Town might have any agency in preventing corporatization and market cornering. Sadie responded there is specific language in the bill to help prioritize groups of people who have been harmed by cannabis prohibition. Discussion ensued. Charlie said this item is something to think about as we get closer to Town Meeting Day.

6. Water Commission Issues

Charlie reported that hydrant flow testing has been going well. The testing should be done by the end of this week so that reports can be filed with insurance companies. Mark said that we should ask Erin for a delinquent list for the next meeting, as it may be that the Town can turn off water for delinquent accounts now. Milton CAT will be back in touch to set up a service schedule, now that we've signed an agreement with them (which should help to avoid having any surprises before winter).

7. Old Business

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

Charlie said that the State is trying to figure out the full guidance around Town Meeting; the legislature has allowed any ballot item to be put to voters by Australian ballot (Montgomery is a floor town, so we do all of our voting by the floor). Thus, for Town Meeting 2021, Montgomery could potentially shift all voting to an Australian ballot method. Suzanne asked about the turning down of the petition to put the ATV item on the ballot. Larry clarified that the petition was for putting an item to vote at the November General Election. Charlie remarked that this issue could be something to consider as we get closer to Town Meeting Day.

b. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (*update*)

Suzanne reported that the stations should be in before the ground freezes.

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

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

Charlie reported they are still hashing out financing.

ii. Timeline—Action Items/Next Steps

d. Communications Union District Update

Charlie forwarded an update email from Everett to the Board; still working on swapping Grange to Comcast service before the WiFi hotspot can be installed. Second hot spot for Pratt Hall in the Village. The reverse auction is scheduled for the end of this month, so we might want to keep an eye out for what happens there.

8. New Business

a. Conservation Commission Appointment (*potential board action*)

Charlie said that Misty McCartney has resigned from the Commission, and the Commission recommended John Kuryloski to fill her seat. Charlie moved to appoint John Kuryloski to serve out the remainder of Misty's seat on the Commission. Vote: 5-0, Aye. Appointment passed.

b. Health Officer Recommendation (*potential board action*)

Charlie said he would like to talk to one more individual, so he asked if the item could be tabled until the next meeting. The Board agreed to table this item.

c. Overweight Truck Permits

d. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses - Big Jay Tavern: 1st and 3rd Class Liquor Licenses

Suzanne made a motion to approve the Big Jay Tavern's 1st and 3rd Class Liquor license, Jacob seconded. Vote: 5-0, Aye. Motion passed.

e. Petition for Speeding and Police Presence from Jason Chartrand

Jason has been asking to put the police services item back on the Warning for Town Meeting. As this item was on the 2020 agenda and already voted on, the Board consensus is to get formal backing (in the form of a legal petition) from citizens in order to put this item to the vote again. Mark made the point that if one isn't able to obtain enough signatures for a petition, that might tell where the consensus in the Town lies. Suzanne added that the Streetscaping initiative shows that the Town is concerned about safety in the downtown areas, and the long-term aim is to make the main streets better. Charlie will circle back to Jason to see if Jason can submit a full petition.

9. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

10. Review Action Items for Board Members

11. Adjourn

Mark made a motion to adjourn, Leanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, Aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Genevieve Lodal-Guild