



MONTGOMERY
FOUNDED 1788

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

Unapproved Minutes
Monday, December 7th 2020
6:30pm

Full Recording of the meeting can be found here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/1oxiCNx_MrF52HsZROKNT6kVpgNluWaJRdWuIaKa3DV--4xSOVdPDGb0-pOqO3V1.hH3Zv9PDiYRaucVR Passcode:f23f1Wb\$

Attendees: Charlie Hancock, Mark Brouillette, Leanne Barnard, Jacob Racusin, Suzanne Dollois
Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild
Visitors: Merle Van Gieson, Howard Kalter, Michael Snider, Sue Wilson

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda

Charlie added the following items to the agenda: Discussion on Warrants/Payment Authorizations, Dog Bite Report, Road Crew Personnel. Mark added: Installation of additional Curb Stop at the Black Lantern Inn under Water Commission Issues.

2. Review/approve minutes of November 16th meeting

Mark made a motion to approve the minutes of November 16th, Leanne seconded. Vote: 4 aye, 1 abstain. Motion passed.

3. Public Works

a. Roads and Bridges

i. Grant updates

Michael reported that he had started to apply for a grant, which is still pending due to the inspector not being able to come out to look at the site yet.

ii. Class IV road policy/application amendments (*potential board action*)

Charlie explained that the Board has been looking at making some changes to qualify the liability and indemnity sections of the policy. They were also going to look at the application to see if there were any changes that needed to be made regarding the scope and duration of work. Charlie would like to table the discussion to a further meeting, due to lack of time since the last meeting to further work on this issue. Charlie opened the floor up for discussion around this topic. Howard expressed concern that some residents on a Class 4 road might maintain a road to a poorer standard and requested that it be a requirement that

people obtain a permit to do work on the road, leaving it up to the Road Commissioner to approve the type and scope of work. Charlie acknowledged these points and said the Board would look to include these ideas in the modification of the policy and process.

b. Buildings and Grounds

- i. 98 Main Street (*update—discussion re: USPS, TDBank ATM renewal*)
No updates at this time. Charlie intends to formally reach out to the USPS as we approach budget season; it's been about 3 months since the last correspondence.
- ii. PSB/Town Office Renovation/RFP (*continued discussion/updates*)
Jacob and Charlie will be discussing the RFP tomorrow.

The 2nd public hotspot was installed at The Grange/Town Hall last week; it's active and working. The Town is trying to switch the service to Comcast for a more reliable, stronger signal.

c. FEMA (*update*)

Charlie reported that we are continuing to submit projects and have them certified. We have 3 fully signed off on now, and we hope to see the payments come in in the near future.

4. Visitors

Merle asked about the changes in the website; Charlie mentioned that the current one is just a placeholder and the new site should be up after the beginning of 2021, and the reason for the updates is to make various improvements requested by personnel and members of Boards. Merle asked about the further public discussion on the Streetscaping; Charlie responded that the current focus is on nailing down the financing and figuring out how to proceed in conducting the meetings. Additionally, he stated that we are at a point of waiting for the "no-risk" planning advance funding from the State before proceeding. Merle asked if the proposed amendments to the Class 4 ordinance were on the website; Charlie responded yes, they are under the Documents section.

5. Water Commission Issues

a. Black Lantern Request for additional Curb Stop (re: Sprinkler System)

Mark reported that Morgan Daybell sent in a request to install a 4" line sprinkler system at the Black Lantern Inn for fire suppression, which would require a new curb stop. Mark needs approval from the Board before obtaining some quotes on installation. Jacob made a motion to approve the application for a new curb stop for the Black Lantern Inn, Suzanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye. Motion passed.

6. Old Business

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

Charlie mentioned that there have been confirmed active cases in town, which is a change since the last meeting. Discussion ensued.

- b. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (*update*)
Charlie reported that Doug is moving forward in trying to get this installed before winter. Michael said that he was on site with Doug and that the sauna tubes have been installed and conduit has been run.
- c. Wastewater and Streetscape Projects (*updates/board action*)
 - i. Status updates
Discussions are still ongoing re: financing for the project, including the potential for a Sewer Benefit Assessment to be put before the voters on Town Meeting as a means of reducing user fees and achieving affordability. Hope to have greater detail together for December 21st meeting. Discussion ensued.
 - ii. Timeline—Action Items/Next Steps
We have paused work until the next stage of the Engineering Planning Advance funding comes through.
 - iii. Update on EPA payments
We are still waiting but should see them soon.
- d. Town Meeting Planning Discussion/Budget Process

Charlie explained that this is still a moving target, given the guidelines around public gatherings. Charlie said there is a good chance that the Legislature could pass items that would allow Towns to unilaterally change the date of Town Meeting (pushing it to May or June). The Town could also call the meeting to order on March 2nd and then immediately recess to a later date if the intent is to postpone (anticipating greater flexibility for public gatherings this spring/early summer). This option would require that all Warning items are ready to for a March 2nd meeting, as the warning would need to be the same for the reconvened meeting. The Town can also move to an Australian ballot system to this year only, meaning Town Meeting would take the form of an informational meeting w/in 10 days prior, with the polls open March 2nd (early and absentee voting still available).

The questions for the Board are: Do we want to try to hold a Town Meeting as usual in March? If not, we would need to move our voting to the Australian Ballot method and conduct a meeting via Zoom. Charlie asked if there was a consensus on holding an in-person Town Meeting in March? Consensus was that an in-person meeting on March 2nd is not an viable option. Jacob questioned the timeframes with the budget process and with the Warnings for ballot measures. If we move to using an Australian ballot method of voting anyone interested in running for an elected officer position would need to file a notice of intent with the Clerk by a date certain (petitions are not required per legislature). Charlie also mentioned that we could potentially print our own ballots, which would help with costs and timing. The Board will need to make formal decisions/motions at the next meeting, due to the timing of the warnings and ballots.

Charlie asked the Board to come back around to the ATV petition that was submitted earlier in the year and whether to include the question on the Warning. Does the Board

want to consider the petition that was submitted earlier in good faith (*the required signatures were valid, but the ask that the question be put to voters at the same time as the Bond Vote was not a legal option*), or ask the petitioners to come back and resubmit the petition on technical grounds? Discussion ensued. The consensus was to accept the petition in good faith and not ask petitioners to resubmit a petition regarding ATVs on town roads, adding the question to the Warning.

Charlie also asked if, regarding a previously submitted petition (*which did not have the required valid signatures*) to put the police services item back on the warning, should he circle back to the petitioner to inform him about submitting a valid petition. Consensus was not to add the item w/out the submission of a petition with the requisite number of valid signatures.

- e. Communications Union District Update (*update*)
No updates at this time.

- f. Preservation Trust Grant re: Grange Hall (*discussion, potential board action*)

Charlie reported that we need to have the Town Hall building listed on the National Historic Register of Historic Places before being able to obtain these types of funds, so this step will be pursued.

7. New Business

- a. Overweight Truck Permits
 - i. Farrow Enterprises

Mark made a motion to approve the Farrow Enterprises overweight truck permit, Jacob seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye. Permit approved.

- b. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses
- c. Warrants and Payment Authorizations

Charlie reported that Open Meeting Law requires a majority of Selectboard members taking an action or making a decision only in the context of a duly warned meeting, so members cannot individually sign warrants outside of the meeting (even with the changes allowed by the Legislature due to COVID). The two options to work with this requirement now that meetings are held remotely are: 1) The Board can vote at a meeting to identify specific persons to whom payments can be made for specific purposes and then allow Erin to write them a check, resulting in every single creditor/business/employee requiring a motion for each payment. Or 2), The Board can authorize one or two members to sign on behalf of the Board. The most functional way to do this appears to be the representative option. Charlie moved that the Board appoint Mark Brouillette and Charlie Hancock to approve and sign orders for municipal expenditures for a period of time commencing December 7, 2020 through July 1, 2021, Suzanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye. Motion passed.

d. Dog Bite Incident

Charlie reported that this incident just happened, and the Board had received a complaint. Brent tried to follow up on the incident with the dog owner today. Charlie will forward all of the information to Sue shortly.

e. Personnel Update - Road Crew

Mark made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, Suzanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye. Motion passed.

Mark made a motion to come out of Executive Session, Leanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye. Motion passed.

Mark made a motion to terminate the employment of Blaine Kittell with the Town of Montgomery, effective December 8th, Charlie seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye. Motion passed. Mark expressed that this was a difficult decision to make.

8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

9. Review Action Items for Board Members

10. Adjourn

Mark made a motion to adjourn, Suzanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Genevieve Lodal-Guild