

Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356  
Montgomery Center, VT 05471 802-  
326-4719 www.montgomeryvt.us

MINUTES of the  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION  
Temporary Town Office (86 Mountain Road)  
Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 6:30pm

Select Board Members: Charlie Hancock, Mark Brouillette, Leanne Barnard, Suzanne Dollois  
(absent: Jacob Racusin)

Clerk: Suzanne Dollois

Visitors: Barry Kade, Sue Wilson, Michael Snider, Erin Kopacz, Doug Kopacz

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:34

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda

→Items to add to agenda:

Buildings & Grounds

item 5.b.ii. Generator Service

New Business

item 9.e. Historical Markers, Sue Wilson;

item 9.f. Public Works Personnel (executive session)

Overweight Truck Permits

iv. SD Ireland

v. Vaillencourt Transport

2. Review/approve minutes of the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting

→Mark made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting as written; seconded by Leanne. Passed 3-0 (Suzanne abstained).

3. Board Organization

a. Oaths of Office

→Leanne and Suzanne have both taken their oaths.

b. Election of Officers

→Charlie opened nominations for Board Chair. Mark nominated Charlie Hancock. Hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed. Charlie Hancock elected Chair, 4-0.

→Charlie opened nominations for Vice Chair. Mark nominated Jacob Racusin. Hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed. Jacob Racusin elected Vice Chair, 4-0.

- c. Designation of Regular Meeting Schedule/Newspaper of Record/Posting Locations  
→ Currently: Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month/ newspaper of record is the St. Albans Messenger/ Posting Locations are at the two Montgomery Post Offices and the Town Clerks Office at the Public Service Building, in addition to website. Charlie made a motion to keep these designations as is; seconded by Mark. 4-0.
- d. Review Internal Board Procedures & Vermont Open Meeting Laws  
→ Charlie suggests board members review at own convenience with particular attention to Executive Session and electronic communication.
- e. Review/Establish areas of responsibility  
→ Charlie delegates to share responsibilities of the Board to the best of each members ability/interest areas.
- f. Review Conflict of Interest Policy  
→ Tabled until April to give Suzanne time to read policy. Adopt at next meeting.

#### 4. Appointments (*board action*)

→ None at this time—tabled until April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### 5. Public Works

##### a. Roads and Bridges

i. Grants → no updates at this time

ii. Fixed Radar Speed Signs

→ Michael with contract with Lafayette. Aim for early May installation. Charlie will follow up with Vrans

→ Michael spoke to 4 paving companies in regards to the repaving of lower Hill West and West Hill Roads and suggests including these quotes/bids for review on the 2nd meeting in April (4/20).

→ Mark discussed recent road conditions as they relate to the sap trucks currently travelling on back roads. He advocates for to legislators to encourage requiring sap trucks to submit requests for road use and pay a road use fee to be used by the town for the repairs caused by the heavy loads during mud season. Charlie will draft a letter; Mark will try to recruit other local road commissioners to get on board and do the same.

##### b. Buildings and Grounds

i. 98 Main Street (*update—discussion under USPS, Old Business; potential Board Action*)

→ Charlie reviewed situation to date, including recent correspondence. USPS is demanding action per lease terms. Current estimates to gut and remediate the building came in at around 30k+, not including the cost of temporarily relocating the offices or of returning them to the location. USPS lease is currently up in less

that 2 years, and no confirmation of term renewal has been offered by the USPS. The Town has no use for the building and wants to seek alternative options. The Board feels that, given the high cost to the town of repairing the building (with no uncertainty about future use by USPS or community needs), as well as the ambiguity of the USPO's responsiveness to the long-term efforts by the town to cooperatively address the matter, it is not in the Town's interest to invest in the location at this time. Mark made a motion that the Board decline to take the actions as requested by the USPO for the reasons previously articulated in correspondence and in person to representatives of the organization. Seconded by Leanne. 4-0. Charlie will again reiterate desired for more holistic discussion around the community, building needs, future use, etc.

ii. Generator Service

→ 3 generators: School, Water Dept., Garage

Mark made a motion to authorize complete annual service package with Brookfield for the 3 generators not to exceed \$1600; seconded by Leanne; 4-0.

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

*(update)*

→ Subcommittee met and reviewed contractor list, selected Debois King. Prequalified List expires on 3/28. Board will wait until list renews to revisit and pursue contract at direction of Vtrans/NRPC.

d. FEMA *(update)* → none at this time.

e. Historical Markers

→ MHS has applied for and received funding for 6 historic markers located at the 5 covered bridges and Pratt Hall. Now trying to get landowner permission for sign-post installation on location-bordering properties. Asking for SB support/approval. No cost to the town, except road crew hourly to help install sign-posts. Charlie made a motion to authorize MHS to work to place 6 Historic Markers at the 5 remaining covered bridges and at Pratt Hall; seconded by Mark. 4-0.

6. Visitors (7pm)

7. Water Commission Issues

8. Old Business

a. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations *(update)*

→no updates

b. Montgomery Thrives Committees (*update*)

→State ANR planning advance of \$82,000 finalized.

c. 98 Main Street—update on discussions with USPS (*update and potential board action*)

→see 5.b.i.

d. Sale of Ambulance (*update*)

→Buyer withdrew. Will try again.

e. Municipal Tax due date(s) (*discussion*)

→ Carry over.

## 9. New Business

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

→Doug speaks to FD getting daily updates from the State. The FD is trying to take strong measures to ensure that department members do not get exposed, meaning that medical calls should be exclusively answered by EMT, with FD involvement as a last resort, in order to keep the department volunteers available for fire responsiveness. He advocates for cautionary measures to be taken seriously by community members. Looking at additional equipment needs.

Sue Wilson (Health Officer) states that no cases have been confirmed in Franklin County as of Saturday 3/14.

Barry is concerned about general lockdown potential and inquires as to the protocol for food delivery and security. Charlie responded that he spoke to Allen—the owner of Sylvesters Market—about the supply chain impacts, and received an optimistic response about continued delivery is expected with short interruptions on specific items (hand sanitizer, etc); delivery trucking will be exempt from any interstate travel restrictions or limitations. Barry suggests a bulletin board for public information re: assistance, announcements, etc. Suzanne suggests asking Allen to clear one of Sylvester's cork boards for that purpose.

Charlie queries about open meeting laws as they relate to the Select Board moving to remote meetings. Board will pursue online meetings for an indeterminate period until social distancing is no longer necessary.

b. Open Approach—Town Office Anti-virus system updates, etc. (*discussion, action*)

→ Firewall protection upgrade done at cost of \$186.33 per year.

c. Overweight Truck Permits

i. Jack F. Course, Inc.

ii. N.A. Manosh, Inc.

iii. Working Dog Septic

iv. SD Ireland

v. Vaillencourt Transport

→Mark made a motion to collectively approve the overweight trucks permits for Jack F. Course, Inc.; N.A. Manosh, Inc.; Working Dog Septic; SD Ireland; and Vaillencourt Transport; seconded by Leanne. 4-0.

d. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses

i. Thompson/Himes Enterprises LLC. dba The Belfry

ii. John Boucher, dba Bernie's

→ Mark made a motion to collectively approve the first and third class liquor licenses for Thompson/Himes Enterprises LLC and John Boucher; seconded by Leanne. 4-0.

e. Public Works Personnel

→ Mark made a motion to enter executive session at 7:38PM; seconded by Suzanne. 4-0

→ Mark made a motion to exit executive session at 7:51PM; seconded by Leanne. 4-0

→ Mark made a motion to raise Mark Guilmette's salary to \$21/hour effective 4/1/2020. Seconded by Leanne. 4-0.

10. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

11. Review Action Items for Board Members

12. Adjourn

→Mark made a motion to adjourn at 8PM; seconded by Leanne. 4-0.