



**MONTGOMERY**  
FOUNDED 1788

**Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356**  
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION  
Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2020  
6:30pm

Full recording of the meeting can be accessed here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zvN3MpfxxFFOc7eUtGrgZek4LoT9eaa8hHdl8vIMzU8LafS\\_FRBxzQXMerPOYqdN](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zvN3MpfxxFFOc7eUtGrgZek4LoT9eaa8hHdl8vIMzU8LafS_FRBxzQXMerPOYqdN) Password: 1A?CK1Wq

Attendees: Mark Brouillette, Charlie Hancock, Leanne Barnard, Jacob Racusin, Suzanne Dollois (arrived at 6:35). Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild. Visitors: Sue Wilson, Charles Snedikor, Melissa Haberman, David Burns, Anita Woodward, Larry Letourneau, Peter Locher.

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order by Charlie at 6:33pm.

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda

No changes to be made.

2. Review/approve minutes of the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting

Charlie asked Genevieve to add Anita as a visitor to the last meeting. Mark made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended. Leanne seconded. Roll call vote: Mark, Jacob, Charlie, Leanne all Aye. Suzanne abstained.

3. Public Works

a. Roads and Bridges

i. Grant updates

No updates from Mark.

ii. Fixed Radar Speed Signs (*update*)

Charlie reported that the permit is in hand, and all is approved by the State. Michael Snider has the permit. Charlie will call about the date of installation.

iii. Paving (*update*)

The Road Crew is getting things ready to be paved this week. Mark says that the road crew has prepped West Hill and Hill West and graded them once, so everything is ready to go.

b. Buildings and Grounds

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

There has been no communication from USPS, so there are no updates.

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

The control panel on the Olympian generator at the water plant needs to be replaced. Charlie talked to Brookfield about past repairs, but they reported that repairs have never actually been made to the panel itself, instead opting to wait for past issues to resolve themselves. Brookfield says there's nothing wrong with the physical structure to cause the problem. The quote for repairs is \$10,845. A new generator for a different model (Kohler) is estimated at \$18,686. Mark asked about a warranty on the current panel if Brookfield replaces the panel. Charlie questioned if we wanted to get one more quote on a generator just to get another number. Jacob asked if we could find if there might be something else on the existing generator that could be nearing its end date to help make the decision. Charles asked if we were partial to Kohler or would be open to another brand; Charlie replied that the Kohler is recommended from Brookfield due to our request of size/capacity of generator. Charles asked if we might consider upgrading the kw capacity for a new generator. Mark replied that the generator when installed was matched to the size of the plant at the time. Charlie will follow up with Brookfield about all of these questions.

Charlie mentioned that the River Walk and the Gardens are looking great and offered thanks to all who have contributed to the cleanup.

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

No updates at this time.

d. FEMA (*update*)

As mentioned at the May 4th meetings, the town has resubmitted the requested condensed spreadsheet. Now we will need to submit the reimbursements.

4. Visitors (7pm)

Melissa Haberman asked for an update on the radar signs. Charlie recapped that we're waiting on Lafayette to come out and install the signs. Melissa also reported that the VASA trails were opened this week and that the villages were hit pretty hard with traffic and noise. She said many residents have started to call the Vermont State Police (VSP) due to quality of life. Charlie responded that the town has not been able to get much response from the Fish and Wildlife department (DFW); Melissa said she noticed that the DFW have come by when the community calls. Suzanne asked if we could try to contract with the DFW. Larry responded that the DFW is contracted by VASA to patrol this area, and Charlie mentioned that maybe we could reach out to VASA; he will do so. Dave Burns expressed distaste at people coming from outside the community and making noise. Discussion ensued. Leanne mentioned that VASA is likely to ask for VT 58 to open up to ATVs. Charlie said we need to reach out to VASA again to request they make good on their promise as far as helping control this situation. Charles suggested that if people see someone riding around on ATVs past 11pm, to please call the Border Patrol station in Richford (BP) at 848-3434. Charlie will reach out to VASA.

5. Water Commission Issues

No issues at this time.

6. Old Business

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

Charlie let people know that the Town Clerk's office has an update on procedures, which is posted and available online. Leanne shared that her puppy ripped up her homework. Jacob asked if there was any communication with the Schoolboard from Schoolboard; he reminded the Selectboard that the education taxes will still be due and that perhaps we should make sure we have the ability to borrow money, if needed. Discussion ensued. Charlie will follow up with Erin.

b. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (*update*)

Suzanne put in the order for the parts, and it should be here within 2 weeks.

c. Wastewater and Streetscape Projects (*updates*)

i. Status updates

Charlie reported that the engineering firm is still moving forward with work. They have finished the drone flight to do their detail work. On the funding front, we are working on the Northern Borders grant for \$1,000,000, which is due on June 1. We are also working on getting letters of support.

ii. Bond vote

Charlie reminded the Board that this would be the Town giving a ‘yellow light’ to the wastewater project advancing. Charlie will email out a copy of bond documents to everyone so that the board review prior to vote at next meeting whether to advance this. The bond vote could occur outside at the Public Safety Building (PSB) on July 7<sup>th</sup>, there would be two articles because the streetscape and wastewater are two different entities. The Town will have to go to bond for the entire amount of expected cost because USDA needs the language of the full amount of expected cost in the article for them to make a funding offer (grant/loan). Bond language will reference this, but it will be important for folks to understand that we would never actually bond for the full project cost. We continue to seek additional outside funds to get the final cost down. Schedule for online hearings pending.

iii. Outreach

Jacob recommended that VCRD could have good suggestions for how to conduct the outreach.

iv. Timeline—Action Items/Next Steps

The Board needs to help with education and language to the public around these figures and how the projects are paid for. Larry suggested that the school parking lot be used instead of the PSB lot for space and asked if absentee voting would be available for this vote. Charlie responded that absentee voting would be in effect for this vote, too.

d. Municipal Tax due date(s) per S.344 (*discussion, board action*)  
(See attached Addendum A)

Charlie shared the tax due date proposal he composed and asked for feedback. Jacob wanted to make sure this was clear that it was only for the municipal portion. It was reiterated that clarity is important here. Jacob asked how this information is going to be announced: FaceBook, the town newsletter, website, and other typical sources. Jacob made a motion to adopt a resolution to change the municipal tax due dates. Mark seconded. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

e. Animal Control Officer—Vacant, pending appointment (*potential board action*)

There have been no leads or volunteers. The issue is tabled while people find suggestions.

## 7. New Business

### a. Municipal Website (*update*)

Charlie, Erin, Liz, and Zach met to go over many changes to the website. The new site will have a lot of formatting changes to create a more streamlined and functional site where it is easier to find documents. Sue noted that the Rec Board page needs some changes. The intended update to the site is Summer, 2020.

### b. Town Employee discussion (likely to be conducted in Executive Session per 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A) & 1 VSA 313 (a)(4).

Mark moved to enter into Executive Session. Suzanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Mark made a motion to leave out of Executive Session. Suzanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

#### i. Proposed Contract modifications

Charlie made a motion to amend the Assistant Municipal Clerk contract to reflect addition of sick time.

Addition: "Vacation and paid holidays are not accrued under the contract based on part-time status being below the threshold for full-time hours and below the threshold for VMERS. The employee can accrue sick time on all hours worked at a rate of one (1) hour of earned sick time for every fifty-two (52) hours worked, including overtime hours, of which a minimum of 40 hours shall be usable per annual period (12 months) equaling five (5) paid sick leave days".

Mark seconded. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

#### ii. Employee Conduct

Discussion was held, but motions made.

### c. Overweight Truck Permits

None.

### d. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses

None.

## 8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

9. Review Action Items for Board Members

10. Adjourn

Mark made a motion to adjourn, Leanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Addendum A

**Tax Due Date Proposal—May 18<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Whereas the transition to a Fiscal Year and the implications of the 18-month municipal budget passed at Town Meeting has the potential to create a hardship on members of the Community on a fixed income or limited economic means; and

Whereas the impact of COVID-19 and subsequent closures of businesses and potential loss of employment for members of the community has the potential to further exacerbate this hardship,

The Montgomery Selectboard hereby resolves to adjust the municipal tax due dates as follows in accordance with the provisions of S.344 (enacted May 14<sup>th</sup> 2020):

For the 2020 Property Tax Year, and only the 2020 tax year, Municipal Property Taxes will have three due dates for payment:

- August 13<sup>th</sup> (optional payment)
- November 13<sup>th</sup> (required payment of two-thirds due for municipal property taxes)
- May 13<sup>th</sup> (required, final one-third payment of balance for municipal property taxes)

The treasurer will issue a warrant to the delinquent tax collector within 15 days of the November due date, detailing delinquencies on the initial two-thirds. The Treasurer will issue a second warrant within 15 days of the May due date, detailing delinquencies on the remaining one-third of taxes due.

Currently, the town assesses a penalty of 8% for all taxes received after the required due date, with interest applied at 1% per month on the balance. For the 2020 tax year the penalty will be lowered to 5%, with the 1% interest rate on all outstanding balances remaining.

**This does not impact State Education Taxes, the balance of which will still be due November 13<sup>th</sup>, subject to the penalty and interest payments.**