



MONTGOMERY
FOUNDED 1788

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Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Monday, May 4th 2020
6:30pm

Full recording of the meeting can be accessed here: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5NV-IrvT9nNOSIXRs0XFC64IEJzDX6a8hiUe8_pZxU-huHmWj7oXCyDIzudmPW0F (PW: 1Y.U?97@)

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Selectboard: Charlie Hancock, Jacob Racusin, Leanne Barnard, Suzanne Dollois (arrived at 6:35); Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild; Visitors: Michael Snider, Sue Wilson, Larry Letourneau, Jordan Kane, Peter Locher

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda.
 - Add Old Business: Sap Truck letter that was intended to be discussed at the last meeting
 - Add New Business: Additional Fleet Permits from Amerigas/Blue Flame and Frank W. Whitcomb Construction Corp.
2. Appointment - Selectboard Clerk (*board action*)
 - Formal motion to appoint Genevieve Lodal-Guild as Selectboard Clerk. Mark made motion to appoint; Leanne seconded. Unanimously passed.
3. Review and approve minutes of the April 20th meeting.
 - Leanne made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Jacob seconded. Roll call: Jacob, Leanne, Charlie. Mark abstained because he was not present. Motion passed, 3-0.
4. Public Works
 - a. Roads and Bridges
 - i. Grant updates - Michael reported that there is nothing new.
 - ii. Fixed Radar Speed Signs - Charlie reported that we are waiting on VTrans to get the permit through and hoping to have it in hand by mid-May. Pending approval of the permit, the signs will be installed.

- iii. Paving (*update*)
Pike Industries bid was accepted. Michael expects them to be here in June.
 - iv. Permit request from Jordan Kane (*board action*) - Item tabled until Jordan joins at 7pm.
 - b. Buildings and Grounds
 - i. 98 Main Street (*update—discussion under USPS, Old Business*) - There has been no reply from USPS, so this item will carry over.
 - ii. Generator repairs at water plant - Charlie reported that he is still trying to get info on mitigating circumstances around failure of control panel. Southfork Milton provided estimate of \$1k just to come up and look at it. Mark reminded the board of the similar issue happening 5-6 years ago, so there should be more info there. Charlie will follow up.
 - iii. Mark asked about lawn mowing and whether it was put to bid. Charlie replied that we ran out of time, so it did not. The Board should try to get bids out late fall/early winter for next year, but for now will keep the status quo.
 - c. Annual Financial Plan (*board action*)
Mark presented the budget for road maintenance (required by Vtrans, template provided). He explained that it comes out to about 65% winter maintenance and 35% non-winter. This Plan shows how much the town spends on road maintenance, which can be useful when seeking funding help. Charlie asked if the Town Tax Funds number of \$347,956 was taken from the budget published at Town Meeting. Mark clarified that it was not, as it was modified to 12 months (not 18). Larry asked how the budget compared to last year's; Mark responded that it was up by about \$28,000. Mark made a motion to approve the Plan; Leanne seconded. Roll call vote; approved 5-0.
 - d. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) update re: Longley Bridge Road project (*update*) No current updates. This item will carry forward.
 - e. FEMA (*update*)
The town resubmitted the spreadsheet to FEMA, per their request to reconfigure for clarity in their reading. We are waiting on a response from sending on 4/29. The next step is likely to apply/file for reimbursement. Total damages estimate came to \$306,578.
- 2. Visitors (7pm)
 - a. Jordan Kane - permit request (*see Roads and Bridges*)

Jordan has a permit request to bury four 3" tap lines 4' underneath Regan Road to keep sap trucks off the road as much as possible. Michael suggested adding in a requirement that there be no digging before June 1 to let the road dry out and

require the permittee to be responsible for maintaining the road for one year after (as per a standard agreement). Jordan said that June 1st will work and asked what the post-year maintenance would look like. Michael and Mark clarified maintenance requirements. Mark made the motion to approve the permit with the 2 stipulations; Leanne seconded. Roll call; 5-0 approved.

3. Water Commission Issues

Mark asked about the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) letter and when it will be sent out. Charlie responded that it will go with the July 1st water bills. Mark made a motion to approve the CCR for the Montgomery Water Department; Jacob seconded. Roll call; 5-0 approved.

Jacob asked about whether AirBnB reductions would affect revenue changes and whether that needs to be factored into forecasting. Mark replied that it shouldn't affect the usage much because of the base rate. Charlie added that we have the Mission system to pull some numbers, but we can really only compare for the last couple of years. Mark said there was a request for a new service hookup on Green Mtn Road; he will work with Erin for estimates.

4. Old Business

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

i. Update on Local Election procedures per SOS

Michael said the road crew went through the VOSHA training last Thursday; Charlie reminded Selectpeople to complete the training. Charlie had an update on local election procedures (section 3 of bill H-681), which outlined options for mail balloting, counting of ballots, drive-up voting, and extension of hours. The state is allowing voting to be conducted in new ways, and this will come into play around the bond vote for the wastewater system. Charlie will work with the Clerk's office on how to do this, as the bond vote is likely set for the end of June/early July. Jacob had a question about tax revenue default/decline support surrounding COVID-19. Charlie responded that conversations are being had, but there's not much that's actionable at the moment.

b. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (*update*)

Suzanne said she is finishing the application and sending it in this week.

c. Wastewater and Streetscape Projects

i. Follow up on 95% deliverable (further discussion, board questions)

The preliminary engineering is finished, which was funded through USDA Reach Grant for \$30k and ANR \$82k (ANR only needs to be repaid if the

project advances). There is a plan to take drone imagery of the Center and Village.

ii. Status updates

The board received an email from Sen. Sander's office in congratulations. Additional funds potentially available from a future COVID-19 stimulus bill. We submitted an application to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for ~\$13 million in construction and final engineering costs, and we made the list! We are hoping to use the funding mainly for engineering costs and only for construction as a backup. Charlie is also finishing the Northern Borders Regional Commission application (projects focusing on economic development) for funds around the streetscape project, which is due May 15. We are in the process of receiving reimbursements for the preliminary engineering, as early as this week.

iii. Timeline—Action Items/Next Steps

The next step is to reach out to landowners who own property identified as potential treatment/disposal sites so they understand what's going on and aren't sidelined. We are expecting a bond vote at the end of June/early July. Then it will be just a community relations campaign, which the town has options as to how to conduct (e.g. Zoom meetings, digitally-presented information).

d. 98 Main Street—update on discussions with USPS (*update and potential board action*) Covered under Buildings and Grounds, no current update.

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

In light of economic impact due to COVID-19 (as well as increased municipal budget due to FY transition), the Town needs to address potential changes in tax income. Charlie has been speaking with Erin about the Town's options, and one seems to be to have $\frac{2}{3}$ of municipal taxes due on Friday, November 13th (the regular tax due date). The final due date would be May 13. The treasurer would then issue a warrant for those portions only to the Delinquent Tax Collector 15 days after each due date. The Town cannot change when the State Education taxes are still to the State, and will still need to cover. He reminded the board that with regard to penalties, 4% goes to the Delinquent Tax Collector and 4% goes to the Town, plus the 1% interest per month on the balance carried forward. We can change the due dates for the Municipal portion and the penalties to help people out, and the Town does not need to have a meeting in order for the Selectboard to change the tax due dates (per recently passed legislation). Sue asked when the Education tax is due; Charlie responded that it's 20 days after the Municipal tax due date. We don't want to move dates out too far because it will then create town cash flow issues. Sue asked about the Supervisory Union collecting their own

taxes, as she noticed that issue is not in front of the Legislature. Charlie asked for feedback on tax penalty and interest changes. Discussion ensued. Charlie will draft the information as a memo and have it ready to move on by the next meeting.

f. Sap Truck Letter

Charlie asked the Board to read it over for comment. Suzanne asked if other towns are pursuing the same initiatives. Charlie responded that after it is approved, Montgomery will share it with neighboring communities. Mark made a motion to submit the letter; Jacob seconded. Roll call; 5-0, approved.

5. New Business

a. Carol McGregor memorial lilac for Village Green (*Board Action*)

The Conservation Commission has requested to plant a lilac shrub and place a granite plaque in front of the bench on the Village Green. Mark made a motion to approve; Leanne seconded. Roll call; 5-0 approved.

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

Keith Sampietro resigned from the position last month, and the town needs a new Officer. Charlie asked if anyone had suggestions. Sue suggested Gretchen Eberle and Charlie Snedikor.

c. Overweight Truck Permits

- i. Pleasant Valley Farms, DBA McAllister Fuels
- ii. Fred's Energy
- iii. Andre and Nancy Leduc
- iv. Spaulding Construction
- v. Kris Bullock, City Feed and Lumber Co
- vi. Kennedy Excavation
- vii. Cardinal Logistics Management Corp
- viii. Harrison Concrete Const., Inc.
- ix. Harrison Redi-Mix Corp.
- x. David Gaudette

Charlie called the vote to approve all the fleet permits. 5-0 approved.

d. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses

6. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

7. Review Action Items for Board Members

8. Adjourn

Mark moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52; Jacob seconded. Roll call; 5-0 approved.