



MONTGOMERY
FOUNDED 1788

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Monday, June 1st 2020
6:30pm

Full recording of the meeting can be found here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tOEUHrTh235IcKfj9GqFZoMYH5i9T6a8gScfqKUFyknoCfoBiWpFvaMImzRtGM1b>

Password: 2s.Wz9jN

Attendees: Charlie Hancock, Suzanne Dollois, Mark Brouillette, Leanne Barnard, Jacob Racusin.
Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild. Visitors: Larry Letourneau, Anita Woodward, Melissa Haberman, David Burns, Sue Wilson, John Chamberlin, Barry Kade, Michael Snider, Jane Lariviere.

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda

No changes made.

2. Review/approve minutes of the May 18th meeting

Mark made a motion to approve the minutes of May 18, Leanne seconded. Larry asked whether under item 7b Employee Conduct should read “no motion made” instead of “motion made.” Jacob made a friendly amendment to edit the writing under item 7b Town Employee discussion to say “no motion made”. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

3. Public Works

a. Roads and Bridges

- i. Grant updates - No grant updates.
- ii. Fixed Radar Speed Signs (*update*)
No updates yet, but after speaking with Michael, Mark hopes that the signs will be installed within a week or so. Michael has not yet heard from Lafayette.
- iii. Paving (*update*)

Paving started on Friday, 5/29. Hill West is done, and West Hill is almost done as of 6/1. Michael said that the road crew is intending to start shoulder work ASAP.

b. Buildings and Grounds

i. 98 Main Street (*update—discussion under USPS, Old Business*) - No update, so this item will carry over.

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

Charlie hoped to have another estimate to review with the Board for a new generator and to clarify what the value was in/for the old unit, but he did not receive one yet. Larry asked for clarification on why we're looking at a new generator and not just a repair. Charlie clarified that the repairs would cost about \$11,000 and a new one would be about \$18,600, so the town is looking for another estimate.

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

Charlie stated that there is a meeting scheduled with the grant manager Linda Blasch on Thursday at 1pm with Michael and Erin to advance the next phase of that project.

d. FEMA (*update*)

Charlie is scheduled to connect with our contact with FEMA on 6/2 to clarify the damage inventory and submittal of additional material for reimbursement.

4. Visitors (7pm)

Larry reported that Anita will be unable to go to the town office for a few days. Larry reminded everyone of the message on our town signs, "Covered Bridges, Open Hearts" in relation to any discussion of issues with public outside behavior.

Melissa Haberman thanked Charlie for working with VASA on education and enforcement of Ordinance, and said it seemed to make a difference for Memorial Day weekend. She had questions about the ATV collision on Rte 58, whether there were any citations involved and what was the response. Charlie said the VSP and our Fire Department responded to the incident. Board is not aware of any citations issued at the scene, as the VSP left the scene due to another call, while The Fire Department handled the accident. Melissa stated that she thinks there might be retaliation going on in response to the town's statements about ATV use; she noticed some Fish and Game presence but is still seeing large groups speeding through village roads. She suggests keeping the pressure on with public messages.

John Chamberlain asked about street sweeping and if it would be taking place. Michael said the Road Crew is hoping to do it when the rental equipment becomes available, after the paving.

5. Water Commission Issues

Charlie received a quote to have the reclaim tank at the Water Plant pumped for \$1,243 from Wind River Environmental. Mark explained why this process is needed. (Minerals settle into the bottom of the cone in the reclaim tank, and while there is a filter press that would remove the minerals, the water department hasn't used the amount of water the tank was designed for [5000 per day; we use 2-2500 per day]. Therefore, it might be quicker and easier to pump out the minerals rather than fire up the filter press.) There have been some troubles with the flows recently, and the tank hasn't been pumped since installation in 2007. Jacob questioned what "energy recovery" in the estimate meant and whether the filter press was needed. Discussion ensued. Mark made a motion to accept the bid from Wind River Environmental to clean out the settling tank in the Water Plant, not to exceed \$1,243. Jacob seconded. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

6. Old Business

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

Charlie reported that the Town Clerk's office is open, although the PSB is still not open to the public. There are still limits on the land records vault use, due to size concerns. Barry Kade asked if the Town incurred any unusual expenses because of COVID. Charlie responded that we invested in plastic sheeting (for a sneeze guard) for the Clerk's office but that there were no large expenditures, just some cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment. Jacob asked if the Town Clerk's office needed any further support from the Board around supplies for re-opening. Genevieve gave an update on the supplies at the Clerk's office, indicating that there are sufficient cleaning and PPE supplies for the time being. Jacob asked if there is a requirement to wear masks when visiting the building; Genevieve responded that there is signage and communication requesting that people wear masks as well as physical blocks in the building to prevent people from going anywhere other than the Clerk's office. Sue asked about whether the opening for the Town Clerk is by appointment only. Charlie responded that appointments are not needed currently. Genevieve clarified that for the general public, there is no requirement, but for researchers, appointments are still required because of space limitations.

b. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (*update*)

Suzanne ordered the parts, and we are waiting for them to come in. She will connect with Michael and Doug Kopacz when the parts are in to start that project. The stations are slated to go into the Grange Hall lot.

c. Wastewater and Streetscape Projects (*updates*)

i. Status updates—NBRC Grant Submission

Charlie reported that the NBRC grant was submitted on 6/1 for a \$1 million ask. The Town received letters of support from state groups and local

businesses. The focus of the grant is on economic development, job creation, and job retention. The feedback Charlie has received is that our application is very strong, and given that we've done a lot of legwork, there is optimism that we will see something positive out of the grant.

- ii. Bond vote—review of *Resolution Certificate, Warning, Articles, and Vote* Edits were reviewed on the Resolution Certificate, Warning, and Articles (which were distributed to the board for review on May 18th). Charlie mentioned that the goal tonight is to move on the Resolution Certificate, Warning, and Ballot. He reminded everyone that the projects are being treated separately due to funding (hence two articles). Larry clarified that it's possible that both projects might not be passed, that the passing of one is not contingent on the other passing.

Charlie reiterated that the numbers reflected in the bond articles are for the full project costs, and that an affirmative vote should be considered a *yellow light* from the community to advance the project, as there are many details to work out, including final engineering. The town is pursuing multiple funding avenues for the project, but the primary source for construction will be a low-interest grant/loan package from USDA, which requires the town to approve the capacity for issuance of bonds for the *full project amount* as a demonstration of support for the project (putting our full faith and credit behind it), *even though the final amount of actual indebtedness would be a fraction of that*. The town is pursuing numerous state and federal grant programs to offset the project cost, including the Northern Borders Regional Commission (with a \$1 million application submitted by the town on June 1st). Again, what we're looking to secure now is a funding (grant/loan) offer from USDA. An affirmative vote would earmark these funds for us. If moving forward we discover road blocks or impediments (including cost) that don't make the project feasible we're under no obligation to take the money (and actually issue bonds), but without an affirmative vote USDA will not extend an offer.

Larry asked for a basic estimate of outside funding. To date, the town has received a USDA SEARCH Grant for Preliminary Engineering \$30k and an ANR Engineering Planning Advance (EPA) of \$82k (note: an amendment has been submitted to bump this to \$49,996 to support advancing work). The advance would only be paid back if the project advances. Town made the state's CWSRF Intended Use Plan for \$650k for final design, and \$12m for construction. Town is also eligible (and applying for on July 1st) a \$125k subsidy to support final engineering. Town has applied to USDA RD for \$11,724,000 to support WW construction (which is come as grant/loan package). Town has applied to

USDA CF for \$6,985,000 low interest to support SC construction. Town has submitted \$1,000,000 ask to NBRC to support WW project.

Charlie reminded everyone that this came out of the Montgomery Thrives process with community outreach and engagement, stemming from a conversation with the Selectboard about how to better engage the community in setting priorities. Leanne made a motion to approve the bond documents as written: the Resolution Certificate, Warning, Official Ballot, and Declarations of Intent No. 1 and No. 2. Mark seconded. Vote: 5-0, passed.

- iii. Outreach Material
- iv. Timeline—Action Items/Next Steps

Charlie will put information on the town website, with a good overview and Q&A for the public. The information will be reformatted for social and print media. Charlie will draft a letter-to-the-editor for the County Courier and St. Albans Messenger to send a clear message around this project.

7. New Business

- a. *ATVs (update, discussion—no board action planned)*

Charlie updated the board that he reached out to VASA (Danny Hale) following last meeting and asked them to help with enforcement; they reached out to their group to let them know Rte 58 is not open to ATV. The County Sheriff and Fish and Game has had some presence and taken some action. He reiterated that the Town's ATV ordinance has been in place for 17 years and that this is not a new ordinance, even though the topic is receiving a lot of current attention (again). Charlie also echoed Larry's suggestion that we keep an open mind and open heart in relation to these issues and that the behavior may be due to lack of education around the ordinance, not malice. He suggested that our first step is for education. Suzanne mentioned that the signage is not very apparent, so perhaps we should put up signs so people can navigate better to know which roads ATVs are allowed on. Charlie said there have been tags with speed recommendations but that putting up greater signage is a good idea. Mark noticed things have been quieter in the last couple of weeks.

- b. *July 4th celebration (update)*

Charlie reported that after discussion with the Fire Department, the parade will happen but will be different. There will be a longer route to distance better, there will be fewer and modified 'floats' to help with distance for people on/in the vehicles. The chicken barbecue will be held at the PSB as a drive-through/take-out rather than at the Rec Center. Barry asked if the Rec Center will be open;

Charlie clarified that it will be open for its usual use as a Rec Center but not for a town-sponsored activity.

c. Reinstating In-Person Selectboard Meetings (*board discussion*)

Charlie asked Board members where their comfort level is with Zoom and with potential public in-person meetings. Jacob asked if VLCT had published any recommendations around this topic yet; Charlie was not sure but will check and see. Mark mentioned that the PSB conference room couldn't hold a distanced 6-foot meeting. Jacob said he thought it was important to make sure the most people have access as possible and that Zoom might allow that with more safety. Barry said that he would prefer in-person meetings, that there aren't usually 25 people that attend meetings, and that the Grange Hall has better ventilation, so he would suggest meeting there. Larry suggested a revisit of the topic near the end of July. Dave Burns asked about having a meeting at the Rec Center Pavilion, weather-dependent. Charlie reminded everyone that we would need to have the ability to pivot to an online format quickly, if more people try to attend than expected.

d. Municipal Budget Update (*review and discussion*)

Erin ran some budget status reports, as the Town is about 30% of the way through the 18-mo. budget. Charlie was concerned about a couple of invoices that came in (from St. Onge for some projects that occurred over a year ago). It put a dent in the Public Works budget, and Charlie wanted to run a report to check on the status. He reported that if we compare last year to this year in our checking account, we're pretty spot on. If looking at the budget reports as a factor of percentage of budget, the items that might raise an eye are around public works projects, for which we are likely to receive some reimbursements or are invoices that simply need to be paid.

e. Overweight Truck Permits - None.

f. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses - None.

8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

Charlie reminded the Board members to stop by the Town Clerk's office to sign documents.

9. Review Action Items for Board Members

10. Adjourn

Leanne mentioned that she noticed a lot of cars parking along Rte 58 on a recent hot day, which made the driving tricky and might present a safety concern. Charlie reminded the Board that we have ticket books and will likely need to have Brent (Constable) start on enforcement. Larry asked if there would be potential to lease land for parking, maybe at

Regan Road and Rte 58, to relieve parking on the road. Charlie responded he could talk to the landowners and see.

Mark made a motion to adjourn, Leanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye.
Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.