



Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Monday, July 20th 2020
6:30pm
Unapproved Minutes

Full Recording of the Meeting can be found here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/29RKCI_K8k9JRdLh7UPgfpE_OdreX6a81SIP_KALnh0DcJSoQP9Z_Aa6NLEurMnDI Password: Wn=Gr3?5

Attendees: Charlie Hancock, Leanne Barnard, Jacob Racusin, Mark Brouillette, Suzanne Dollois (arrived at 6:52)

Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild

Visitors: Sue Wilson, Anita Woodward, Larry Letourneau, Lois Lumbra, Colin Sorenson, Everett McGinley, Catherine Dimitruk (NWRPC), Rob Fish (VT Public Service Department), Shaun Coleman (NWRPC), Emily Klofft (NWRPC/VISTA), Sean Kio (Enosburg Representative for NWVCUD)

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda

Charlie added Renewal of Municipal Clerk and Municipal Treasurer contracts under New Business.

2. Review/approve minutes of the July 6th meeting

Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6th meeting, Leanne seconded. Vote: 4-0, Aye. Motion passed.

3. Public Works

a. Roads and Bridges

- i. Grant updates - No updates at this time.
- ii. Fixed Radar Speed Signs (*update*)

Charlie reported that he talked to Kevin from Lafayette, who is waiting for the breakaway posts to come in. When the posts come in, the work will be scheduled for installation. Larry asked what the installation costs ended up being; Charlie

responded that the cost for the installation came to close to \$10,000. Charlie explained that the money to pay for it was found through grant receipts, and based on a conversation with Michael Snider, working with Lafayette is our best option.

iii. Driveway Permit – Creamery Bridge Road update

Charlie checked in with Mark about the issue with the driveway permit for Heather Ross, and Mark confirmed that it had been resolved and that he would check in with the property owner before it was buried to ensure the culvert is in there correctly.

b. Buildings and Grounds

- i. 98 Main Street (*update—discussion under USPS, Old Business*) - no update at this time.
- ii. Generator repairs (*discussion, potential board action*)

Charlie reached out to Brookfield to ask them if there was any value in the current generator and whether we need to have a new one. They have not responded yet with anything specific. We are still waiting on a second estimate for a new generator.

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

Charlie reported that we had sent back a set of questions and comments on the DuBois King proposal. They responded last week, and Charlie, Erin, Michael, and Mark will finalize the agreement shortly.

d. FEMA (*update*)

Charlie said that last Friday, the Town submitted the first round of reimbursement requests, so they are now in FEMA's hands. Our contact, Kelly, is keeping things moving forward. The next reimbursement round will be for another section of the repair projects. This Wednesday, the site inspection team from FEMA will be in Montgomery to look at any outstanding work that needs to be completed.

4. Visitors

Sue Wilson asked about a wet hydrant maintenance and flushing update and reported that VTrans isn't mowing this year, due to funds. Mark said he would talk to Ross about when this will happen. Colin Sorenson asked if there were any funds that could be sent towards the Community Garden to help with the access and signage. Charlie responded that he spoke to Remi Gratton earlier in the week to look at what else is left to fix (due to the fall flooding) and the cost of that work and whether the town could help loan the money to get it all fixed. Discussion ensued.

Larry asked about the Animal Control Officer position; Charlie responded that the Town does not currently have one. Larry asked about the vacant house ordinance complaint; Charlie responded that a letter was sent from Doug Kopacz to the property owner, and nothing more has happened. Larry also asked about the Executive Session at the last meeting and whether there was any formal motion that was made; Charlie said there was not. Larry asked about the sharing of the Health Officer position with Enosburg; Charlie responded that he had not heard anything back from Jim Cameron, who had initially reached out about the sharing. Larry asked if the FD or SB has ever issued a fireworks permit; Charlie said he did not think so. Larry said state statute requires that the FD or SB must issue a permit for fireworks to go on. Jacob asked if it was related to a certain class of fireworks. Discussion ensued. Larry mentioned to Mark that at the end of Regan Road and Rte 58 there is a really deep hole that needs addressing from the washout last fall as well as weed whacking.

5. Water Commission Issues - No issues at this time.

6. Old Business

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

b. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (*update*)

Suzanne reported that Doug is intending to go down to the Grange next week to start installation work. She filed the paperwork with Erin to file the reimbursement on the equipment.

c. Wastewater and Streetscape Projects (*updates*)

i. Status updates

Charlie reported that both initiatives of the bond vote passed.

ii. Timeline—Action Items/Next Steps

The next public engagement aspect is to have a meeting in August with all property owners in the village zoning district and the engineers, through Zoom or potentially outside for questions and information. The next steps will require landowner permissions for access for wetland delineations and the work that will go into the final engineering phase. Charlie reported that there has not been any “boots on the ground” engineering work, so that is a next step. The next part of the engineering phase is to have a scope of services from Hoyle Tanner, which would outline costs and scope of work. Charlie reported that we should hear from the USDA mid-August about the funding offer. We have had positive feedback thus far, so we are hopeful of a positive result. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program reported back that Montgomery is eligible for a low-interest loan from the state; we primarily would use this money for the final engineering. 24% of project costs are eligible to be granted. We're also eligible for an additional \$125,000 to be rolled into a grant, which would make the money in the end that needs to be provided by a loan much lower. Charlie is intending to create a

timeline with funding to make a clearer picture and will send that out. He pointed out that we need a project manager to track, monitor, and make sure everything is in place; he has asked NWRPC if they have the capacity to do this. There are funds available to help pay for this role, so it may not need to be in the municipal budget. Discussion ensued.

7. New Business

a. Set Municipal Tax Rate (*board action*) - See Attached Document

Charlie explained the calculations: that the Municipal Tax Rate is the money to be raised by taxes divided by the Municipal Grand List plus the Conservation Fund and Local Agreement to equal the Total Municipal Tax Rate. He reminded everyone that this is a transitional budget to cover 18 months, so the Municipal Rate was expected to be a higher rate than in the past. The Education rate, which was set by the State and sent last Friday, is for a 12-month period. Jacob asked if this reflected an assumption of 100% tax collection; Charlie said the budget does have assumptions baked into it, but this rate does not reflect an assumption of a less than 100% collection.

Charlie said that with the Wastewater system, there is investigation into whether user fees for those on the system could be rolled into the tax bill through the establishment of a Sewer District, which would let those additional costs be subject to state payment. (Thus, the state would in effect help out with payment of those bills.)

Mark made a motion to set the Total Municipal Tax Rate at 0.763874, Jacob seconded. Vote: 5-0, Aye. Motion passed.

b. Communications Union District re: Broadband (*discussion, potential board action*)

Catherine Dimitruk reported that we now have a Northwest Vermont Communications Union District (Enosburg and Fairfax had just voted to form this district). She gave an overview of the District: they are a special-purpose independent governmental organization to expand broadband access and availability within its District. The next steps in the process for this CUD are to set up an organizational meeting, coordinate a feasibility study, and apply for grants. Rob Fish gave an overview of the funding opportunities: Broadband Innovation grant, CARES Act funding - Connected Community Resilience Program, and the Vermont Community Foundation grants and infrastructure investments.

Sean Kio from Enosburg explained his background in the telecommunications industry and his vision for this essential utility as we move forward. Everett McGinley said that he attended a VCRD meeting in early July and heard the urgency of the need for rural broadband: it is becoming necessary for education, telemedicine, and the economy of communities. There are a lot of funding opportunities right now, as well. Discussion ensued. Charlie asked what the downside would be if Montgomery did not join the district. Catherine responded that it would be more of the same (poor connection speeds and high user costs). Rob made note that town boundaries do not matter when it comes to this utility, that it tends to fall more on road lines. Suzanne asked if this work would require the burying of lines/cables and changing of back roads and if, in joining the CUD,

there could be individual action. Rob said that usually burying is not the cheaper option, so likely the lines would be run along the existing poles. He made that analogy that the CUD would be like a solid waste district, where it is a town-level, not an individual-level, thing. An individual has the choice not to obtain service through this entity. Suzanne asked about any guesses on the cost savings. Rob responded that it would depend on what the feasibility and business plans report; he noted one big difference is that there is no incentive to make a profit through a CUD. Shaun said that there is some local control with the CUDs, which is a big benefit. Charlie confirmed that all of the funds for the studies would come through grants and asked about the funding for the actual building of the project. Catherine clarified that it could be funded through additional grants and/or revenue bonds (taken out by the CUD) based on future revenue of the project. Rob explained that this is a process and results will not necessarily be quick.

Jacob asked if it was due to the State of Emergency that the Selectboard has the authority to create a CUD without needing a town-wide vote. Catherine confirmed that it was due to the State of Emergency that this creation could be made without needing a town-wide vote.

Mark made a motion to adopt Article 1 of the Resolution Approving the Formation of the Northwest Vermont Communications Union District and Appointing a Representative to the Legislative Body Thereof (See Attached) and create/join the NWV Communications Union District, Leanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, Aye. Motion passed.

Mark nominated Everett McGinley to be the Representative, Everett accepted the nomination. Mark made a motion to adopt Article 2 of the Resolution Approving the Formation of the Northwest Vermont Communications Union District and Appointing a Representative to the Legislative Body Thereof (See Attached) and appoint Everett, Leanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, Aye. Motion passed.

Jacob made a motion to provisionally appoint Ian Scott as an alternate to the CUD. Vote: 5-0, Aye. Motion passed.

Charlie made a motion to provisionally appoint Roger Lichti as 2nd alternate to the CUD. Vote 5-0, Aye. Motion passed.

- c. Voter Check List re: general election (*discussion*)
Charlie said that this is not going to be done tonight, as there needs to be an appropriate forum determined. The BCA needs to go through the voter checklist to determine if there are people who need to be purged/removed from the voter rolls.
 - d. Overweight Truck Permits
 - e. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses
8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

9. Review Action Items for Board Members

10. Adjourn

Suzanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Leanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, Aye. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted, Genevieve Lodal-Guild

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FORMATION OF THE NORTHWEST VERMONT COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT AND APPOINTING A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LEGISLATIVE BODY THEREOF

WHEREAS, the Legislative Body of the Municipality of MONTGOMERY, acting pursuant to authority granted by Section 1 of No. 119 of the Acts of 2020, hereby approves the formation of the Northwest Vermont Communications Union District ("District", "NW CUD") under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. chapter 82 and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of MONTGOMERY Legislative Body, with one or more other Municipalities, intend to form the Northwest Vermont Communications Union District ("District", "NW CUD") and

WHEREAS, as provided in Section 3059 of said chapter, initial appointments to the governing board of the District shall be made within 60 days of the vote to form a district under subsection 3051(b) and,

WHEREAS, as provided in Section 3060 of said chapter, the governing board's initial organizational meeting shall be held within 90 days of the vote following the appointments contemplated in section 3059

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

(1) The Legislative Body of the Municipality of MONTGOMERY hereby approves the creation of the Northwest Vermont Communications Union District, and its qualification as a communications union district under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. chapter 82.

(2) The Governing Body of the Municipality of MONTGOMERY hereby appoints the following representative and one or more alternates to the Legislative Body of the Northwest Communications Union District for the initial term ending on or before the last Monday in April 2021:

Representative: EVERETT MCGINLEY


Alternate: IAN SCOTT

Alternate: RAGER LIGHT

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Governing the Municipality of MONTGOMERY duly held on the 20th day of JULY 2020.

ATTEST:


Chair


Municipal Clerk

7/21/2020
Date

FY21 Municipal Tax Rate Calculation

Municipal Tax Rate = $\frac{\$ \text{ to be Raised by Taxes}}{\text{Municipal Grand List}}$ = $\frac{\$1,228,829.00}{\$1,624,638.67}$ = .7564

+ Conservation Fund @ 0.005

+ Local Agreement @ 0.002474

= Total Municipal Tax Rate of .763874

Note: (2019 municipal tax rate was 0.5066)

Note: (projected FY21 tax rate, before Vet Exemption and Con Fund, was .7624)

FY21 Res Education Rate = 1.3137
(FY20 was 1.2816)

FY21 Non-Res Education Rate = 1.5745
(FY20 was 1.5388)