



**MONTGOMERY**  
FOUNDED 1780

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**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION**

PSB Conference Room

Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 6:30 p.m.

**UNAPPROVED**

Selectboard members present: Charlie Hancock-Chair, Scott Perry-Vice chair, Mark Brouillette, Sarah Silva, Colin Sorenson

Visitors: Michael Snider, Paul Nichols, Nafis & Sarita Khan, Johnathan Betts, Paul Fernald, Susan Delear, Phil Laramie, Greta Quintin, Sherman Webster

Clerk: Elizabeth Reighley

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

1. **Review and make any changes to the agenda.** Charlie noted the addition for visitors.
2. **Public Works:**
  - a. **Review Budget.** The board reviewed the highway budget status.

**Visitors:** Phil Laramie introduced himself to the board. He indicated his interest in the water system operations for the town and stated that he submitted a contract proposal for review. Mr. Laramie runs his own company out of Richford and has sixteen years of experience in the field as a Grade 5 Operator mostly in repairs and installation. Charlie acknowledged his submitted proposal and stated that the decision would be made by the end of the meeting.

Comments from the public were taken at this time. Residents from the town voiced their concerns about the upcoming bond vote and the details surrounding the vote for a new town office. Several questions were raised about the needs for office space, more information, and the question of legality regarding holding the vote during the general election. Several members of the board indicated that based on state statute Title 24 there is nothing illegal about a vote being brought forth in November however, since the topic was raised in prior meetings about how to interpret the statute, the board agreed to reach out to the Secretary of State and Bond Attorney Paul Giuliani to obtain legal advice. Scott reiterated that since reaching out to the State and a bond attorney that the board was advised to continue moving forward with a bond vote based on their close study of state law and their legal interpretations. Mr. Betts submitted a

letter to the board for review. Questions were raised about the status of the old town office space and Colin summarized what work had been done to remediate the old site based on the compromised health of the building due to repeated flood damage. Sarita raised the issue of septic in town and whether the board would pursue information about available grants for a town sewer system. Discussion continued on the topic of the new office proposal and what other improvements needed to be done in town. Sarah indicated that the current town office proposal was still too high a cost and that they need more time to work on the plans; Charlie cited that as time goes on the more construction costs increase, and that the current floor plans are by no means the final plans, and based on the numbers he has seen he believes that a new building would be the best value for the taxpayer. Scott mentioned again that the dollar figure associated with the bond is authority given by the voters and that the actual costs will be based on the best bid the town selects (the cost cannot exceed bond authority) and also the anticipated grant money the town may receive. The board and residents continued with further discussion about the most cost effective way to either renovate the old office or build a new office to better serve the future of the town.

**Public Works continued:**

**Town Office Repairs, Bond Vote, Resolution of Need/Warning/Ballot.** Michael indicated to the board that something needs to be done about the old town office stairs/ramp as it is in serious disrepair. Members agreed that regardless of what happens to the building it is still currently inhabited by the Post Office and will be for some continued time and therefore access to the building is a still a viable need and must be safe for the public to use. The board reviewed the bids that came in to fix the stairs/ramp and Scott motioned to accept Tim Murphy's bid and authorize Michael to hire him to do the job. The motion was seconded by Mark and passed by a unanimous vote.

Charlie presented the board with updated figures from Arnold & Scangas Architects with the projected construction costs based on market increases around 8%. Board members delved back into the subject of the need for office space and whether or not they support the bond vote regardless of whether it is presented in November or at town meeting in March. The board members each gave their input on the comments taken from the public at both the informational meeting and the current meeting. Colin stated he felt strongly about waiting before presenting the bond article. Charlie stated his concerns about voter turnout if they do not present in November and how that would impact the vote. In an effort to raise more awareness in the community the board talked about resurrecting the New Town Office Committee or putting forth another referendum. The idea was brought up to rehire Cross Engineering to do another study and present the voters with facts and figures on what it would cost to bond for a new building using the most recent rough draft floor plan or bond for the old building with the intent to take over the entire building footprint in order to see where the best value lies in this debate. Discussion continued at length. The board decided to hold a special meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> to make a final decision before the September 19<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**3. Review Municipal Water System Operations Contract proposals and make selection.**

Mark recused himself from the following proposal discussion; the board went on to review the Water System Operations proposals from Phil Laramie and Simon Operation Systems.

Colin motioned to accept the five year contract at the fixed rate from Simon Operation Systems, the operator currently used by the town, and authorize Charlie to sign the contract away from the table. Scott seconded the motion and the motion was passed by a vote of 4-0-1 recusal.

- 4. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters (e.g. Next meeting agenda)**All orders were signed at this time.

Scott motioned to end the meeting, seconded by Sarah, board adjourned at 9:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Reighley