



MONTGOMERY
FOUNDED 1780

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Monday, September 7th 2020
6:30pm

Full Recording of the Meeting can be found
here: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/OWPeVxmKDiPtjNmCJIWQOPN81oodpnW5GGgnnZKAfGbSKbOPbmq_LFy1bXGEVM1w.unkXllgHNulsCUQt
Passcode: Q3W06J@P

Attendees: Charlie Hancock, Leanne Barnard, Mark Brouillette, Jacob Racusin, Suzanne Dollois
Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild
Visitors: Northwest Access Television (recording meeting), Sue Wilson

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda

Suzanne added Jason Chartrand's Petition for Traffic Control item at Town Meeting under New Business.

2. Review/approve minutes of August 17th meeting

Mark made a motion to approve the minutes from August 17th, Jacob seconded. Vote: 3-0, aye; 2 abstained. Motion passed.

3. Public Works

a. Roads and Bridges

i. Grant updates - none

Mark said he would try to have the Garage crew put the mower on his tractor so that he can mow the sides of the roads.

b. Buildings and Grounds

i. 98 Main Street (*update—discussion under USPS, Old Business*) - no updates at this time

ii. Generator repairs & service agreement (*discussion, potential board action*) - Charlie reported that Milton CAT came up last week and replaced the control panel. While fixing the panel, the maintenance

personnel noted the heating block had cracked and needed to be replaced. As it was cheaper to replace while they were already present, the call was made to go ahead and fix it on site. Charlie also received a service agreement from Milton CAT and will send it to the Board for review.

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

Charlie reported that the kick-off meeting was last week; they met the engineers from Dubois King, and with Nadia from the State, they walked the area to look at locations and distances. Engineering work will begin shortly.

- d. FEMA (*update*)

Charlie reported that we are continuing to get our projects in, and we have had 5 projects certified as complete. We will continue to work on and submit for the balance of the projects.

4. Visitors

5. Water Commission Issues

No issues at this time.

6. Old Business

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

School is starting tomorrow. Mark asked about a return to in-person meetings for the Selectboard; Charlie responded that he would look to the State for guidance but there isn't anything new/specific yet. Jacob said he'd been doing some research on the building side of things, and he would be happy to pass along any guidance around indoor air quality for office spaces. Charlie asked for a high-level overview of what might be needed for the PSB. Jacob responded that the biggest concern is for the recirculation of air inside a room and a building, and the basic strategies (and combinations thereof) for risk-reduction are dilution and purification. Charlie suggested the next step would be to cost out options and look at the current system in the PSB. Genevieve reported that Fridays at the Clerk's office have moved to remote servicing.

- b. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (*update*)

Suzanne said she met with Michael and Doug, and they decided on a spot right by the wall of the Grange. They will have to pour a concrete base and run some electricals through. Michael will bring in some Jersey barriers to protect the handicap ramp. The work should be pretty small-scale, and Doug is hoping to get the work done before the ground freezes.

c. Wastewater and Streetscape Projects (*updates*)

i. Status updates

Charlie sent out an email to the Board about the USDA Rural Development offer. We received about \$507,000 from NBRC, and qualified for \$250,000 subsidy from the Clean Water Revolving Fund already. The USDA RD funds were planned to be our foundational funds which we'd build upon with additional grants. The offer from USDA RD came in at: \$6,065,000 grant and \$4,948,000 loan at a 1.125% interest rate. We will get a lower rate should it change, but locked in at max rate would be 1.125%. Unfortunately, when the award was announced the town learned that any other funding the Town receives will go against the grant offer and not the loan offer. Charlie talked to the head of Rural Development in NH and VT and the lead in VT to see where the disconnect on the happened, as it handicaps the Town's ability to make it an affordable project, despite it being a good offer. He also spoke to HT engineers and contacts at DEC to see where we go from here. All the money the Town has spent so far has been through grants or loans that do not need to be repaid if the project doesn't move forward. Thus, there is no risk for the Town so far. We are looking at amending the engineering planning advance to keep work moving forward and in a way that will result in no out-of-pocket expenses for the Town while we continue to lock in finances.

ii. Timeline—Action Items/Next Steps

The next step is to look at the framework and continue to investigate options for getting the net outlay affordable for taxpayers, given the USDA offer. Continue to investigate Rural TIF (tax-increment financed) options should legislature pass bill. Charlie will email board with details. Mark asked about the Streetscape project. Charlie responded that we haven't heard back from the USDA CF yet about that project, and we are looking at pursuing federal grant dollars (which are harder to get, but cover much greater percentage of the project). Charlie meeting with Jon Olin at HT to discuss.

d. Communications Union District Update

Charlie reported that Everett sent a report to say that the CUD now consists of: Montgomery, Enosburg, Bakersfield, Fairfield, Fairfax, Georgia, Sheldon, Highgate, and Alburgh. He had a question about other public wifi hotspots to consider, as there is funding for these. A good spot might be the Grange or Pratt Hall. Charlie mentioned the reverse auction at the State using CARES funding, which could result in larger companies (not CUDs) getting funding from the federal government for service expansion and potentially undermining CUDs.

7. New Business

a. Budget Status Update

Charlie reported that he emailed the budget status from Erin to the Board. Typically anything that has a high budget percentage is flagged. Erin pointed out some items that were higher: the NEMRC contract for Town Offices, Hoyle-Tanner bills (which will be reimbursed), the unexpected St. Onge bills, and road materials (possibly related to FEMA work). Jacob asked about delinquent taxes (is there a seasonality to it), vital records, bond payments, highway payroll; he noted that costs for all materials have skyrocketed in the last few months, so it's something to note for the upcoming winter road season. Suzanne asked about clarification on the budget for the Buildings and Grounds.

b. Carl Tcherny Illumination gift transfer to Historical Society

Charlie brought up the issue of the Illumination, which was a gift to the Town from Carl from 1996; it is a translation of some history of Rome. He asked the Board if the Town wants to transfer both the ownership and care of it to the Historical Society. Sue responded that the MHS thought about displaying it at the Library because of temperature control. It was valued at \$15k when it was given. The MHS would like to have it appraised but will likely wait. Charlie made a motion to transfer and make a gift of the Illumination to the MHS, Leanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye. Motion passed.

c. Petition for Traffic Control item at Town Meeting

Jason Chartrand sent an email to the Board requesting that an item about the policing and traffic control of ATVs be put on the warning for Town Meeting. Jason is in the process of getting signatures for a petition, and Charlie said that the Board could opt unilaterally put an item on the Warning without a petition. Leanne responded that her observation is that it's been a lot less loud and lower traffic. Jacob asked if this is a really unresolved issue that needs to be addressed at Town Meeting again. Charlie responded that a decision about adding this to the Town Meeting warning did not need to be made by the Board now and wanted the Board's thoughts on the matter. Discussion ensued, Charlie will circle back to Jason.

d. Overweight Truck Permits

e. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses

i. The Inn - 1st and 3rd Class and Outdoor Consumption

Mark made a motion to approve the renewal of the 1st and 3rd Class and Outdoor Consumption Liquor license from the Inn, Suzanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye. Motion passed.

8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

9. Review Action Items for Board Members

10. Adjourn

Suzanne made a motion to adjourn, Jacob seconded. Vote: 5-0, aye. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.