



MONTGOMERY
FOUNDED 1789

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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Temporary Town Office (86 Mountain Road)
Monday, October 16th 2017, 6:30pm
Unapproved**

Selectboard Members: Charlie Hancock-chair, Darren Drevik-vice chair, Mark Brouillette, Colin Sorensen(via conference call), Jacob Racusin

Visitors: Barry Kade, Merle Van Giesen, Chris Lamonia
Clerk: Elizabeth Reighley

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:38p.m; Colin called in via conference call 6:47p.m.

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda. Add liquor license for Jolley Associates LLC, PSB snow guards, and Verizon Meeting.

2. Review/approve minutes of the October 2nd meeting. Mark motioned to approve as written, seconded by Jacob, and passed unanimously

3. Public Works

a) Roads and Bridges

a. Grants: Status Updates:

- i. Amended Paving Grant.** Deanna is working on paperwork for reimbursement.
- ii. Structures Grant for Route 58.** Carry over
- iii. Better Back Roads Bridge and Culvert Grant.** Carry over
- iv. USFS Culvert Grant for AOP design.** Carry over
- v. Municipal Grants in Aid Pilot Project.** Carry over
- vi. SFY-2018 Transportation Alternatives Grant.** Mark will be attending a meeting about this in Enosburg on October 17th.

b. Longley Bridge Update

- i. Easement.** Mark motioned to authorized Charlie to sign and execute the Warranty Deed for the easement with the Longleys, pending there are no

changes, away from the table seconded by Darren and passed unanimously.

- c. **Fuller Bridge.** Carry over
 - i. **Monitoring.** Carry over
 - ii. **Covered Bridge Ordinance Review.** Discussion took place about what the proposed ordinance would offer for protection above what is currently available to the town. Enforcement would be through constable. Darren noted that they have an obligation to protect the assets of the townspeople, meaning the covered bridges, which need to be protected from damage from drivers ignoring the height and weight restrictions. Barry gave some constructive criticism and suggested the board look at the state Department of Motor Vehicle fine structures to ensure the costs can be reasonably recovered. Darren suggested setting the fine to match the state fine otherwise the argument could be made that setting the fine at \$1000, when the state currently charges \$300, could be seen as out of line. Charlie will clean up the current draft with amendments and ask Charlie Merriman to review again.
- d. **Brady Road; Cote Road bridge/culvert needs.** The board should assume that by November 1st they will most likely need more fuel at the Cote Road house, Mark stated they may be able to use one of the smaller trucks to get smaller fuel tanks across the bridge. Work towards a long term solution continues
- e. **Road Crew Training.** Carry over

b) Buildings and Grounds

- a. **Generators.** Pending availability for Doug. Carry over.
- b. **Snow Guards.** Michael identified there is an issue at the PSB where the snow blocks the emergency exits at the rear of the building, and the grange hall has a leak due to snow piling against the vent pipe. Charlie brought up the quote from R&A Enterprises to complete the work at the PSB and the Grange for \$2300. Darren asked whether they could get a full breakdown of the materials and labor costs.

4. Visitors

Chris Lamonía—Aegis Renewable Energy Solar Proposal

Chris handed out a proposal fact sheet to board members that extends an offer to the Town which may extend to the School as well. Chris described the project, involving the purchase of power from a solar project in St. George. If the town contracted with Aegis we would remain customers of VEC, but receive a 10% discount on Kwh charges. This would entail a twenty year contract. Discussion took place. Jacob requested an overview of company history/ownership as well as information about whether the Renewable Energy Credits are retired from the project. Colin queried whether we could find out what the cost would be if the town owned its own solar array. Chris will plan to come back with a detailed proposal for review.

5. Water Commission Issues

- a. **Ordinance Review and Amendments.** Charlie handed out revised drafts of the amended ordinance to other members. Board members reviewed and discussed edits.

Colin exited the conference call at 7:47 p.m.

6. Old Business

- a. **Town Office Needs.** Jacob has called twice, as well as emailed, VLCT and he has not heard back. At this point he will reach out to Charlie Merriman for clarification on legal questions. Jacob has received a quote from polygon group re: document restoration, which can be broken out into phases to ensure contaminated documents are cleaned or contained properly. Jacob will follow up with Deanna on the timeline and come back to the board to discuss costs/budget
- b. **VCRD Community Visits Program (pending announcement Fall 2017) / Economic Development—Future Efforts.** Jacob has been in discussion with Jenna recently; VCRD are about a week away from knowing which town they will select next. If VCRD does step in and select Montgomery they will select the citizens to make up boards, due to their impartial aspect, thus Jenna recommended to Jacob that the board wait before making any decisions on structuring committees. Discussion ensued.
- c. **Stanion Court Case Status.** Mark motioned to authorize Charlie to submit the official motion to the DRB to reopen the hearing, striking the last sentence that the Stanion's are not opposed to seeking a settlement if the board has not heard back from them by Oct 23rd, seconded by Jacob and passed unanimously.
- d. **Vacant Building Ordinance proposal.** Two public meetings took place, Darren and Charlie recapped how the meetings went and felt that there was great feedback on the proposal with concern to respecting private property rights while still dealing with any existing problems. Board members agreed that it made sense to fine tune the proposed ordinance for another round of public comment before potentially bringing it to town meeting.
- e. **Fire/EMS radios.** Carry over
- f. **T.H. 33, Request for Discontinuance.** Carry over
- g. **Planning Commission Appointment.** Barry Kade stated that they met with two interested people for the Planning Commission vacancy, they did not come to a consensus on a recommendation, and request that the selectboard make the decision. Darren made a motion to authorize Charlie and one other selectboard member to meet and conduct interviews with each candidate, this was seconded by Jacob. Motion was passed 4-1 by a roll call vote of Darren-yes, Jacob-yes, Mark-yes, Colin-no, Charlie-yes.

- h. Verizon.** Darren recapped the meeting with Verizon, which did not bring any good news for Montgomery as there is still no way to obtain full coverage at this point due to topography and lack of repeaters. Discussion was had. Darren suggested approaching Senator Sanders office to see if there is a possibility of obtaining a grant to purchase multiple repeaters.

7. New Business

- a. Neary Road (T.H. 9) Request for Discontinuance.** The board has received a request to discontinue Town Highway 9, as it is essentially a driveway, which only serves one dwelling. Charlie stated they will need to contact abutting landowners, if any, and schedule a site visit. They will meet at the site on November 2nd at 2 p.m.
- b. Proposed Changes to Zoning Bylaws.** Barry Kade expressed his concerns with clerical issues within the Zoning Bylaws that would, should the proposed edits be made, would make the bylaws easier to read for the general public. Barry stated that making these administrative edits may require the whole town to vote, however he is not sure whether this is legally required and will be looking into this. Discussion took place. Charlie motioned to authorize the Planning Commission to seek legal advice regarding bylaw edits at a cost not to exceed \$200.
- c. Health Officer Pro-rated Stipend Payment.** Charlie motioned to pay Colin the pro-rated Health Stipend prior to year end, seconded by Mark this passed 4-0.
- d. Local Option Tax discussion.** Darren stated his opposition to raising taxes further using a Local Option, such as a local sales tax or a rooms/meals tax, unless the revenue was earmarked for a specific project for the town approved by the voters before pursuing. Jacob noted that he too would need to see a compelling presentation on cost estimates that would support this idea and the merits of this type of tax and the effects it would have on a small town. There was consensus that in absence of such information no further action would be taken regarding a local option tax
- e. Overweight Truck Permits.** None
- f. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses: Jolley Associates.** Mark made a motion to approve the liquor license application seconded by Jacob and motion passed 3- 0 -1 abstention

8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters. All orders signed at this time.

Jacob motioned to end the meeting, seconded by Mark and the board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Reighley