



**MONTGOMERY**  
FOUNDED 1789

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION  
Temporary Town Office (86 Mountain Road)  
Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 2017, 6:30pm  
**UNAPPROVED**

**Selectboard members: Charlie Hancock-chair, Darren Drevik-vice chair, Jacob Racusin, Mark Brouillette (absent), Colin Sorenson (via conference call)**

**Visitors: Michael Snider, Sue Wilson, Anita Woodward, Larry Letourneau, Marijke Dollois, Joe Sherman**

**Clerk: Elizabeth Reighley**

**Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:37p.m.**

**1. Review and make any changes to the agenda.** Add under Public Works, Buildings & Grounds 3,B(c), Monitoring Contract for Public Works Building.

**2. Review/approve minutes of the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Darren motioned to approve as written, seconded by Jacob. This passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote: Darren-yea, Jacob-yea, Charlie-yea, Colin-abstention.

**3. Public Works**

**a) Roads and Bridges**

- a. Grants: Status Updates:** Michael met with Bethany Remmers, of Regional Planning, about pursuing the grant for Rte 58 under 'Better Roads', she will be obtaining estimates to bring back to the board. Regan Rd also needs work for ditching and stone lining, Michael stated that he needs to put together estimates for this project, also under the "Better Roads" program; Bank stabilization and ditching for Longley Bridge Road will go through the new 'SFY Transportation Alternatives' grant program. Michael cited that the concrete bridge on Rte 58 may need to be replaced, this came by State recommendation, however he still needs to finish reviewing the bridge reports from the state before making any decisions to ensure that the bridge needs are prioritized and budgeted for properly.

- b. Michael also noted that the Town of Berkshire has reached out to neighboring towns stating that they will be posting all of their roads in the springtime and enforcing a travel ban which includes municipal trucks taking Berkshire roads to truck materials; this will restrict Montgomery from access to sand and gravel from current source during mud season, so we will need to consider stockpiling materials or alternative sources for Spring 2019.
  - i. **Amended Paving Grant.** The grant paperwork is complete and has been submitted, the turn-around time for reimbursement should take about four weeks.
  - ii. **Structures Grant for Route 58.**
  - iii. **Better [Back] Roads Bridge and Culvert Grant**
  - iv. **USFS Culvert Grant for AOP design.** As of now the Regan road project is back on schedule and will be happening according to Regional Planning.
  - v. **Municipal Grants in Aid Pilot Project.** Postponed until the spring
  - vi. **SFY Transportation Alternatives (see above)**
- c. **Longley Bridge Update.** The bridge was officially opened today and Stanley Longley was first resident to drive through the new bridge.
- d. **Fuller Bridge**
  - i. **Monitoring.** Carry over
  - ii. **Covered Bridge Ordinance Review** Charlie Merriman sent a letter to the board regarding his thoughts on the viability of the ordinance and whether the selectboard has the authority to enforce this particular type of ordinance, for which there is limited direction in statute. Discussion last time ended with the feeling that this would help the town obtain reimbursement from persons who damage the bridge to relieve the burden from falling on taxpayers to pay for all the repairs. Discussion took place, marking up the existing draft. Darren motioned to adopt the Covered Bridge Ordinance as amended, seconded by Jacob, and the motion passed 3-1 by a roll call vote: Darren-yea, Jacob-yea, Colin-nay, Charlie-yea. Board members further discussed extra signage needs and monitoring options.
- e. **Brady Road; Cote Road bridge/culvert needs.** The plans to begin removing the temporary bridge will be underway Wednesday. Part of it will go to Cote Road to mitigate the bridge issues there and the remainder will go into storage for now, with Brady Road being the next project that will need immediate attention.
- f. **Road Crew Training.** Michael stated a change in requirements that will allow road crew members to forgo Osha 10, for now, and be able to immediately take the grader classes as they are available. The board discussed working both with the state and regional planning to get them to provide more of these classes up north in our region as most of the grader courses are being offered in southern parts of the state.

**b) Buildings and Grounds**

- a. **Generators.** The recent storm and town wide power outage(s) this past week has brought up some concern that if something like this happens again in the winter the town has limited capacity to service the four buildings we're obligated to maintain. Michael suggested that we may need to look into the cost of hooking up certain buildings for portable back-up generators, or purchase additional portable ones to maintain heating and keep pipes from freezing. Doug Kopacz has been asked to take a look at the different building specs and determine what potential hook-ups/wiring and/or type of generators would be required. Once the board has the information they can direct the budget committee to consider the work and potentially request proposals from local contractors. The service of the school generator will be finished during the Thanksgiving break.
- b. **Snow Guards PSB/Grange.** The board reviewed the breakdown of labor and materials submitted by R&A Enterprise for the snow guard work. Jacob moved to accept the bid from R&A Enterprises, this was seconded by Darren, and passed by unanimous roll call vote.
- c. **Town Garage Monitoring.** Summer Electric has submitted the requested proposal to also monitor the town garage at the same monitoring rate and schedule as what the PSB has; Charlie motioned to execute a contract with Summer Electric for the Town Public Works building, seconded by Darren, and passed 3-1 by roll call vote of: Darren-yea, Jacob-yea, Colin-nay, Charlie-yea
- d. **Grange:** Michael is planning to winterize the grange and address damage from potential animal nesting

#### 4. Visitors:

**Joe Sherman—Deuso Road.** Joe Sherman came before the board to discuss the Deuso house that was condemned by the state due to a fire threat within the house. The State electrician condemned the house due to a faulty water heater, the meter was seized until repairs were completed. A follow up inspection was and the deputy state fire marshal confirmed there was no longer a fire hazard. All information regarding the action is public records and available both to the town and to landowners. Charlie noted to Joe that NWRPC is looking into information regarding FEMA buyouts for properties that have issues with flood damage and erosion.

**Sue Wilson-** requested \$100 to purchase 10 boxes of LED x-mas lights for the town wreaths; Darren motioned to approved the request, seconded by Jacob and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Sue stated they will be preparing the wreaths with the new lights this friday.

#### 5. Water Commission Issues

- a. **Ordinance Review and Amendments.** Charlie handed out the latest draft of amendments to the ordinance with the edits and suggested changes, he stated the changes were mostly clerical and pointed out the few substantive edits that had to be retained in the ordinance concerning what is governed by state statute. Darren motioned to approve the amendments to the water system ordinance, Jacob seconded, and the motion passed 3-1 by roll call vote of: Darren-yea, Jacob-yea, Colin-nay, Charlie-yea

## 6. Old Business

- a. **Town Office Needs.** Carry over to special meeting, time and place TBD.
- b. **VCRD Community Visits Program (pending announcement Fall 2017) / Economic Development—Future Efforts.** Charlie stated that he would like the board to entertain scheduling a special meeting to discuss this issue at length now that there has been a response from VCRD (see above).
- c. **Stanion Court Case Status.** The town has received a response from the Stanions confirming that they are interested in discussing a potential settlement in the matter before the DRB regarding the fence. Discussion took place regarding the issue at hand, as well as the broader implications of zoning and the town's obligation to enforce the existing bylaws which were approved by the voters. Colin disagreed that the town was obligated to do so, suggesting the board should instead drop the issue and apologize. The majority of the board confirmed their desire to enter into talks. Charlie will follow up with Mr. Merriman regarding the next steps and reaching out to the Stanions.
- d. **Vacant Building Ordinance proposal.** Carry over
- e. **Fire/EMS radios.** Carry over
- f. **T.H. 33, Request for Discontinuance.** The site visit was conducted on October 24th. While both ends of the Class IV road are clear, with middle of the right (located on the Locher parcel) is indiscernible.. Discussion was had. Charlie read the applicable statute(s) regarding the process of discontinuing roads, noting that he felt the board should consult with the town attorney to ensure their interpretation of state statute and process is correct Darren motioned to deny the request for discontinuance, pending consultation/confirmation of process with Charlie Merriman, seconded by Jacob and passed by unanimous roll call vote.
- g. **Planning Commission Appointment.** Charlie nominated Kenneth Miller to fill the Planning Commission vacancy for the remainder of 3 year term to expire in March 2018. Kenny was appointed by unanimous roll call vote. Charlie will reach out to those who also expressed interest in the seat to express thanks for their interest and encourage them to remain involved as future seats become open.

8:29 Colin was disconnected from meeting, phone connection restored at 8:31

- h. **Neary Road (T.H. 9) Request for Discontinuance.** The site visit was completed on November 2<sup>nd</sup> Unlike TH 33 It is clear where the road is and that it only accesses one parcel with no other landowner or dwelling sites needing access through this road. Charlie motioned to discontinue Town Highway no. 9 commonly known as "Neary Road" Darren seconded the motion and this passed 3-1 by roll call vote of: Darren-yea, Jacob-yea, Colin-nay, Charlie-yea.

- i. Aegis Renewable Energy Solar Proposal.** Chris Lamonia has submitted a proposed sales agreement, spreadsheet of expenditures, and a breakdown of savings. Charlie suggested that everyone take some time to review all the information and come back prepared to the next meeting. Charlie will reach out to Chris to let him know that the board is reviewing their proposal. Colin stated he met with Chris after the last meeting to further discuss this proposal. Charlie suggested that the board should perhaps invite Chris back to a later meeting after the review process.
  
- j. Proposed Amendments to Zoning Bylaws.** Charlie has not gotten a response from Barry yet. Carry over.

## **7. New Business**

- a. Overweight Truck Permits.** None
  
- b. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses.** None

**8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters.** Franklin County Regional Commerce has requested funds for membership dues Darren will look into this. VASA has submitted a survey for the town to complete, Charlie will fill it out and send back to them. All orders were signed at this time.

Darren motioned to end the meeting seconded by Jacob and the board adjourned at 8:47p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth Reighley