



MONTGOMERY
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Public Safety Building Conference Room
Monday, July 18th, 2016 6:30 p.m.
UNAPPROVED

Selectboard members present: Scott Perry-chair, Charlie Hancock-vice chair, Mark Brouillette, Colin Sorenson, Sara Silva (via conference call)

Visitors: Michael Snider, Sue Wilson, Mark Simon, Nate Fredericks, April Macha, Kent Rushlow, Chris Rushlow, Mark Macha, Darren Drevik (arrived at 7pm)

Clerk: Elizabeth Reighley

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda. Add to new business: approval of Driveway Permit for Jason Day.

2. Review/approve minutes of June 20th 2016. Charlie motioned to approve the meeting minutes of June 20th, seconded by Mark. Minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Set Municipal Tax Rate. The board discussed the proposed tax rate options. Mark motioned to set the total tax rate at .4039 with the budgeted \$37,000 bond payment reallocated to the Capital Improvement Reserve, this was seconded by Charlie. The motion failed by a roll call vote of: Mark-yea, Colin-nay, Charlie-yea, Sara-nay, Scott-nay. After further discussion members agreed that in light of the fact the bond for the new office did not pass at town meeting day the budgeted bond payment should be removed and the total rate lowered accordingly. Charlie motioned to set the total tax rate at .3806 with the removal of the \$37,000 bond payment from the budget. Mark seconded the motion and the tax rate was passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Discuss Water System operation contract proposal with Simon Operations System. Mark Simon (owner) and Nate Fredericks (regional operator) from Simon Operations Systems were present to discuss the town contract with their company; Mr. Simon stated that the contract with the town of Montgomery for water system operations was up for renewal/or modification. The board discussed the existing contract and talked about the services SOS provides to the town. After a brief discussion Scott asked that Mr. Simon draw up two different proposals: the first being similar to the original with a three year term and the second outlining a fixed operations price under a five year contract for the board to review and make a decision on. The deadline to accept or deny the proposal falls on September 8th.

5. Public Works.

a. Roads & Bridges

Grant Status: amended paving grant, structures grant for Route 58, Better Back Roads Bridges and Culvert Inventory grant, USFS Culvert grant. Discussion took place regarding the status of the grants and the process our Public Works Director has undertaken while in contact with Jim Cota and the state department. Michael indicated there has been a lapse in contact with the state and is waiting to hear back on the status of the programs; he has tried several times to reach out to contacts within the state department to secure funding for the various paving projects, the hydraulic study, and the culvert inventory but has not heard back. Mark stated he has been in contact with Bethany Remmers of the NW Regional Planning Commission as she will be working with Montgomery on the culvert inventory, and she noted they will begin working on the inventory this week. Michael also stated that the Brady Road culvert is in poor condition and needs serious repair perhaps sooner than the culvert inventory takes place. The board will be reaching out to Jim Cota to setup a meeting face to face to keep things moving forward.

b. Longley Bridge Project. Carry over.

c. Buildings & Grounds Report:

Town office roof/floor. Michael stated that the railings and handicap ramp at the post office are rotting and need to be rebuilt. The board recommended blocking off the ramp to prevent any accidents and that Michael should procure a quote from a local carpenter immediately. John Cluba gave the board a quote for the town office floor to remove carpeting, apply caulk as needed, and paint the subfloor. The total cost, including labor/materials, came to roughly \$1900. The board reviewed the quote and discussion about whether the project was necessary at this point ensued. Several points were made about minimizing costs on building maintenance at the old office until the voters make a decision at the November bond vote; the added cost of removing/replacing flooring would be moot should the building need to be renovated/rebuilt later for town or postal usage. The board agreed to carry over the floor/roofing projects until after a decision is cast in November.

This brought forth the next topic regarding the new town office project. Scott queried the rest of the board about their current stance on the town office bond and what to do about the growing needs for office space. Scott reviewed the processes for drafting and presenting a bond and noted that there is a general timeline to be followed in order to coincide with the bidding processes and construction phases. Colin suggested involving the library in this process, indicating that perhaps a new library would be less expensive to build and would thus provide the town clerk with the old library space to convert into an office with room for a larger vault. Such a proposal could have a mutually beneficial outcome for both parties involved however it would still need to be a bonded article voted on by taxpayers. The board examined this option at length. The selectboard will set up a meeting with the library board to discuss a proposal once they have further information regarding costs at hand. In the meantime Scott suggested the town hold several informational meetings to involve the public to garner ideas and perspectives from the voters.

PSB Alarm system. Doug Kopacz to follow up with the board with an update after new panel has been installed.

Keys. Scott reviewed the building access for the PSB and it was determined that keys to the temporary office space will be made for the Chairman and Vice Chair as the office hours will be resuming the full time schedule starting July 25th thereby giving daytime access to other selectmen as needed.

Conference room use. The need to occupy the conference room at the PSB has become apparent now that the town office is operating out of the police and health offices. The temporary vault space does not provide enough room for residents, researchers, listers, and Zoning to occupy the space while looking through records/maps forcing them to spill into the conference room. Scott mentioned that there are several community groups that could relocate to other community venues such as the Grange Hall or the Baptist Church. It was noted that there are some groups that do not have the conference room booked but still occupy this area on a

somewhat daily basis which may conflict with the temporary business hours. Mark motioned to reserve the conference room to be used for town officials and office purposes during the business hours of 8am-4pm daily; this was seconded by Charlie and passed by a roll call vote of 4-1 as follows: Mark-yea, Colin-yea, Charlie-yea, Sara-nay, Scott-yea.

d. Equipment & Personnel. The board voted to amend the contract of the new road crew member to include a stipend in lieu of healthcare. Charlie motioned to authorize Scott to make the amendment to the contract to include the stipend and sign it away from the table. Mark seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous roll call vote. Michael mentioned he was interested in purchasing new reflective t-shirts for the highway crew as they currently only have long sleeve wear, which is not ideal for summer heat, and the vests they have are no longer in compliance. The board gave the okay for Michael to go ahead and purchase the shirts to better outfit the crew based on weather conditions and maintain state compliance. The road crew schedule for grading and chloride will be short one member for a vacation however they will continue to have the grader out as scheduled. Once the roads have been completed Michael noted he will begin work on the much needed culvert inventory.

6. Visitors 7:00pm. April Macha presented a dog complaint to the board regarding the ongoing issues with neighboring dog owners. She indicated she has filed complaints prior to the meeting and has contacted the dog owners, and was seeking further assistance from the selectmen. Since the last date of offense it was confirmed and conveyed that the dog had since been put down voluntarily by its' owners prior to this meeting. As Ms. Macha was unaware of the owners' most recent actions she indicated she had no further dispute beyond this point.

Darren Drevik stated that the Montgomery Center for the Arts at the Baptist Church is now up and running in town and hopes to see community members get involved.

7. Water Commission Issues

a. Permit to Operate Status. The permit to operate now officially approved and will no longer pose further issue to the town.

b. Skinner Usage. The water usage is out of normal bounds for this particular home which is usually only a weekend/vacation home. Mark is looking into possible causes of the meter increase. The board agreed that the usage must still be paid as it was taken from the meter with the stipulation that Mark will continue to monitor water usage for the next several weeks to determine if there is a leak or other issues with the reading. Charlie motioned to deny any adjustment on the water bill, this was seconded by Colin. The motion passed by a 4-0-1 roll call vote of Sara-yea, Charlie-yea, Colin-yea, Scott-yea, Mark-recused.

8. Old Business

a. Hectorville Bridge Project Update. Carry over

b. Stanion Court Case Status. Carry over.

c. VEC power extension on Hazen's Notch. The extension is completed and met satisfactory standards for the town.

d. Three Holes Ordinance. Board members briefly assessed whether to pull the ordinance completely or just leave it as is with the changes that were made at a previous meeting. It was deemed that it should be left as it is to provide clarity on how to access the swimming holes without trespassing on private land.

9. New Business

a. Driveway Permit. Charlie motioned to approve and sign the driveway permit located on 1696 Regan Road for Jason Day. This was seconded by Mark and passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

b. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses. The Spout LLC, Johanna Waterhouse 216 Main Street. Charlie motioned to approve and sign the 1st & 2nd class liquor license and the outdoor consumption permit for The Spout LLC this was seconded by Colin. The motion passed by a

unanimous roll call vote.

c. **Resignation/nomination.** Scott announced his resignation as Chairman of the selectboard and nominated Charlie for the position. Charlie was elected to serve as chairman of the board for the remainder of his term by a unanimous roll call vote. Mark nominated Scott for the position of Vice Chair. Scott was elected to serve as vice chair of the board for the remainder of his term by a unanimous roll call vote.

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

Charlie motioned to end the meeting, seconded by Colin. Board adjourned at 9:25p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Reighley