



MONTGOMERY
FOUNDED 1780

Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
Montgomery Center, VT 05471
802-326-4719
www.montgomeryvt.us

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Temporary Town Office (86 Mountain Road)
Monday, August 21st 2017, 6:45pm
Unapproved

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

Visitors: Brent Godin, Sue Wilson, Deanna Robitaille-Town Clerk/Treasurer, Larry Letourneau, Anita Woodward

Clerk: Elizabeth Reighley

6:45 Charlie called the meeting to order

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda. Change new business to: C) Budget Review, D) ZA Job Description, E) Dog Officer Workshops.

2. Review/approve minutes of the August 7th meeting. Mark motioned to approve as written, seconded by Darren and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Works

a) Roads and Bridges

a. Grants: Status Updates:

- i. Amended Paving Grant. The Town will be finishing our part throughout the next two weeks, and will pay Pike Industries for their services then remit the paperwork to the state to be reimbursed.
- ii. Structures Grant for Route 58
- iii. Better Back Roads Bridge and Culvert Grant
- iv. USFS Culvert Grant for AOP design

b. Longley Bridge Update

- i. Easement. The easement language is in place, the Mylar has been submitted for recording, however the schematic was done by an engineer not a surveyor. Charlie has asked the town's attorney whether this can be

recorded as is or whether the Mylar will need an official stamp from surveyor.

- c. **Fuller Bridge**
 - i. **Monitoring.** Carry over
 - ii. **Define Fine Structure for Damage—Ordinance Review.** Charlie has not heard back from Mr. Merriman on the latest draft.
- d. **Brady Road; Cote Road bridge/culvert needs.** Carry over.
- e. **Insurance for Covered Bridges.** Sue has a call in to discuss with Susan Scribner and she will get back to the board with updates.

b) Buildings and Grounds

- a. **Generators.** Test has been scheduled for Friday August 25th.
- b. **Monitoring Contract.** Charlie emailed the board copies of the contracts from Summer Electric & Sunray Fire & Security; the cost for annual monitoring should the Town select Summer Electric would be \$240.00 for the PSB versus \$290.00 for Sunray. There was discussion about adding the Town Garage, this would require a separate contract which Summer Electric can draw up if necessary. Mark motioned to have Summer Electric conduct the building monitoring for \$240.00 annually, second by Darren, and the motion passed unanimously. Mark motioned to authorize Charlie to sign away from the table, seconded by Darren, and passed unanimously.

4. Visitors. Brent stated Nutting Road has an issue with a runoff going directly onto a property so there needs to be a correction made with the grader to direct the water back towards the existing ditch for runoff on the other side.

5. Water Commission Issues

- a. **Ordinance Review and Amendments.** Carry over.
- b. **Hydrants.** The hydrants have been repaired. Additional work recommended by SOS will be considered when 2018 budget is addressed

6. Old Business

- a. **Town Office Needs.** Jacob is working on fact finding re: Main Street location and has obtained the reports from Servepro and VOSHA from the Town Office, he will be calling VLCT as well as reaching out to Charlie Merriman for further input.
- b. **VCRD Community Visits Program (pending announcement Fall 2017) / Economic Development—Future Efforts.** Jacob's talk with Jenna was in short a discussion about what the town could do to move forward in the interim. Jenna suggested putting together a committee to spearhead economic development and serve as a community driven task force that is not a formalized town board. Regardless of whether Montgomery is selected for the next Community Visit program Jacob suggested that the town residents be tasked with putting together a community committee that could either jump into the role of a formalized steering committee with VCRD, or remain on board to pursue the beginnings of a DIY approach with one selectboard member as a representative. Discussion was had at length. Members will brainstorm committee framework for further discussion after Labor Day.

- c. **Stanion Court Case Status.** Charlie Merriman has reviewed the proposed letter from the Town to the Stanion's asking for a settlement in which they remove the fence from the town Right-Of-Way and reconstruct to conform to existing Zoning Bylaws; should a settlement not be reached the town will pursue the remand to the DRB. Darren motioned to authorize Charlie to send the letter, Jacob seconded and motion passed 4-0.
- d. **Sorensen Insurance Claim.** Carry over
- e. **Vacant Building Ordinance proposal.** Public outreach will need to be taken on this matter. Carry over.

7. New Business

- a. **Health Officer.** Discussion was had about the events of August 10th involving an altercation between the Health Officer (Colin Sorenson) and a member of the community, and the Health Officer's subsequent actions on social media. While the board does not wish to litigate "who did what to who" there was uniform agreement that actions of the health officer following the event, declaring a "public health emergency", was grossly inappropriate. Charlie made his disappointment clear that Colin was not present and he hoped to have this discussion in person. Charlie made a motion to petition the state Department of Health to remove Colin from the position of Health Officer and appoint Sue Wilson to fill in for the remainder of the year until a new appointment can be made at Town Meeting March 2018, Darren seconded the motion. Discussion took place and the motion was passed unanimously.
- b. Following this, Mark motioned to have the board formally request that Colin resign his seat on the Selectboard due to chronic absenteeism from meetings and conduct unfitting of an elected official, seconded by Darren; following discussion Darren offered an amendment to the motion to authorize Charlie to draft this request in a formal letter detailing the expressed concerns and complaints of both citizens and the board regarding his conduct and absenteeism, for which the board feels warrants resignation, to be delivered by certified mail. The amended motion was passed 4-0.
- c. **Fire/EMS radios.** Charlie recapped his meeting with Fire/Rescue regarding the issues in town with the lack of functioning communications between the department and dispatch at central station. Charlie stated that the fire and rescue departments have been authorized to utilize a service that allows a tone to translate into email or text message should the repeaters fail to transfer the tones through to their radios. Charlie noted that while this is not a solution to the problem with communications it is an extra measure to help ensure that fire/rescue get proper notification when emergencies occur while a broader solution is worked on. Further discussion took place with regard to state involvement at Senator Sanders offices, looking into obtaining grants to purchase more repeaters, and the suggestion to reach out to VTEL to see if Gaston's Silo could be utilized.

- d. **Budget Review.** Charlie passed out to each member a copy of the most recent budget status report to review. Review was conducted and Charlie will follow up with Deanna on questions.
- e. **Zoning Administrator Job Description.** Board members reviewed the draft from the Planning Commission.
- f. **Dog Officer: Workshops.** Keith has requested to attend several workshops sponsored by the VT Police Academy for town dog officers; board members discussed the cost of travel to the workshops and the remaining budget status for regular calls/duties as well as the dog census needs. Darren suggested they approve the level 1 workshop for this year and add the remaining three workshops into the following year's budget needs, pending discussion with Keith, following the first meeting. Charlie will reach out to Keith for follow up.

- g. **Overweight Truck Permits.** None

- h. **Liquor/Tobacco Licenses.** None

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

Mark motioned to end the meeting, seconded by Darren and the board adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Reighley