



Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION

Monday, August 19th 2024
6:30pm

Town Office Conference Room (86 Mountain Road)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/G-mm3qxt5m2mlQzxB49_cu8xTh9Esp4OB_2Umag3mm495LpH7U1UOtWJKHMBFfku.2LFuLBdpi566UbvW

In Attendance: Charlie Hancock, Emily Kimball, Mark Brouillette, Leanne Barnard, Suzanne Dollois, Anthony Memoli, Paul Szwedo, Louis Bushey, Chris Pattullo, Theresa Almy, Paul Nichols, Larry Letourneau, Jordan Kane, Peter Locher, Lynn Locher, Tosca Smith, Jamie Edwards, Lorraine Fischer, Marc Kremer, Tiffany Salyards, Diane Sherman, Barb Paggi, Matt Paggi, Harvey Chaffee, Marlene Mercy, Bruce Mercy

On Zoom: Arnold Mercy, Betsey Caney, Jake Morely, Roberta Baker, Mike Sarnacki,

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda
 - a. No changes
2. Review/approve minutes of the August 7th special meeting (*August 5th Regular Meeting canceled due to lack of quorum*)
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark, seconded by Emily. Motion passed, 3-0-2 (Leanne and Suzanne).
3. Public Works
 - a. Jay State Forest Management Planning Process (*discussion*)
 - i. Lou Bushey from Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation gave some historic information about the acquisition of the Jay State Forest beginning in 1954.
 - ii. The Forest is about 8,000 acres divided almost equally among Jay, Montgomery and Richford
 - iii. There are numerous partners working to conserve this land
 - iv. Existing uses include VAST trail, Long Trail and Catamount Trail
 - v. The Department is working on a timeline to take Resource Inventories of the area currently and is working on a timeline to include Public Scoping as well as Goal Setting and then taking in Public Comment in the spring of 2025
 - vi. There will be a public meeting scheduled in the future to take in interests from the local community.
 - vii. Community members asked questions about logging opportunities, flood resiliency opportunities, etc..
 - b. Updates (*discussion*)

- i. Municipal Grants in Aid reimbursement status/FY25 GIA location selection (*update*)
 - 1. FY24 grants are all submitted and the reimbursement is incoming
 - 2. Mark and Scott have identified two areas on Amidon Road that need ditching and will be addressed through the FY25 Better Back Roads Grant. This work is specifically related to the hydrological study that has been previously conducted and noted that these were areas of concern.
- c. Regan Road Power Project (*update/board action*)
 - i. Dedicated power is being run, conduit is run, power will be pulled in the coming days.
 - ii. There will be a small structure installed up there to house some of the communications equipment.
- d. Rushford Valley, Class IV culvert request
 - i. Anthony Memoli, came to discuss the culvert on Rushford Valley Road that is consistently washed out and is presenting as dangerous. This culvert is about 400 feet beyond the town turnaround. Anthony believes that the Class III Road actually extends past where this culvert is located.
 - ii. Charlie reiterated the road policies and Class IV maintenance agreements.
 - iii. Discussion continued, and Anthony was told that the SB and road crew would discuss further.
- e. Future Strategic Planning – Sugaring and Municipal Roads (*community discussion 7pm*)
 - i. Concern that sap trucks are causing damage to the roads during a time when the roads are sensitive due to seasonal changes (mud)
 - ii. Jamie reports that there is ditching that could help as a solution to keeping the roads more solid
 - iii. Jordan Kane reports spending \$30,000 in order to pipe the sap out in order to preserve the roads. He also brings up the point that there is significantly more traffic on all of the roads
 - iv. Charlie also states that many of the roads are not up to par due to flooding impacts, and they were fixed in an emergency situation in order to get the roads open.
 - v. Tosca reports conditions on North Hill this past year were not good, but had been for the past five years; she notes that the weather this year has been highly problematic. She also states that we need to be willing to spend more money in order to have good roads.
 - vi. Jamie reports that Regan Road needs material added to it as the road is lower than the abutting properties
 - vii. Matt reports that conditions on 58 were so bad this year that he was unable to get to his house numerous times. He suggests that the town needs to be more “bold” in the future strategic plan in order to address the needs to the roads.
 - viii. Larry questions the designation of 58 as a “town road”
 - ix. Harvey also questions the designation of 58 as a “town road”.
 - 1. The SB is currently working to secure more funding and state aid for 58.
 - x. Barb also reports the need to take the roads down to the base and redo them
 - xi. Arnold (on Zoom) asks about winter maintenance with regard to taking the crown off of the road and where water settles. He also asked about running

chains on the town trucks. Mark responded that the need to remove the crown has to do with plowing and snow removal. Further discussion ensued.

xii. Dianne asks about the actual financial implications of impassable roads/what does it cost pave/ditch/culverts, etc..

xiii. Bruce reports that the traffic on Regan Road is tremendous and notes that the increased traffic is highly problematic during the mud season

4. Visitors

a. Lorraine & Marc Kramer (re: Vincent's Bridge Swimming Hole)

i. Marc and Lorraine report that they are open to people accessing their property to swim and that they are committed to cleaning up (unfortunately) the garbage that is left behind. What they take issue with, and is illegal, is that they have lots of people driving through the river to get to the peninsula area. What they would like to do is put in place some large boulders to block vehicles. Discussion ensued.

b. Lou Bushey, Dept of Forest, Parks and Recreation (re: Jay State Forest)—Moved to Public Works item a.

5. Old Business

a. Jay State Forest Management Planning Process (*discussion*)—Moved to Public Works item a.

b. Municipal Wastewater Update (*discussion*)

i. Chris Pattullo letter response; this letter is with regard to moving forward with the wastewater plan based on the changes to the scope of the plan

1. Charlie reports that per the request the town attorney has responded

2. Chris asked about the changes to Act 250 and how this will change our community when the wastewater system is installed

3. Conversation about development, Act 250 and future housing density will change based on the changes in Act 250. Question from Mike was articulated about if the project is the same project that the voters originally voted in favor of.

4. Other questions about the viability of the current system, pumping of tanks, etc. ensued.

5. Significant discussion ensued about the implications of Act 250, Zoning and Planning.

ii. Amendment #10 Loan/Subsidy Approval (*board action*)

1. Tabled until next meeting

c. Streetscape Project Update (*discussion*)

i. Office hours were held last week, the engineers are clearing ROW and we can then go back to the state

d. Montgomery Water System PER (*discussion*)

i. Recommendations for improved water flow at the fire hydrants have been made; a booster pump is the recommendation. The hope is that we will get funding from the state to fix this issue.

6. New Business

- a. Vincent's Bridge Swimming Hole (*added at request of landowner*)
 - i. See notes under visitors
 - b. Open Approach quote for municipal services (*board action*)
 - i. Quote is for \$2139.83 for the firewall for cyber security as our current firewall is due for upgrade. Suzanne motioned to approve the quote as written, Leanne seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0.
 - c. Town Hall Committee Project Approval (*board action*)
 - i. Ceiling tiles invoice is in the warrants for this meeting
 - ii. Food Bank will not work with the town, Tosca has formed a 501c3 in order to work with the food bank. They will work with the Town Hall Committee to form an agreement to "lease" the space.
 - d. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses (*board action*)—none
 - e. Fleet Permits (*board action*)—none
- 7. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters
 - 8. Review Action Items for Board Members
 - 9. Adjourn
 - a. Motion to adjourn was made by Emily, Mark seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.