Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Monday October 7th 2024 - 6:30pm
Town Office Conference Room (86 Mountain Road)

In Attendance: Theresa Almy, Katherine Sims, Tosca Smith, Tiffany Salyards, Merle VanGuiesen, Scott Ovitt, Chris Pattullo, Suzanne Dollois, Charlie Hancock, Emily Kimball, Mark Brouillette, Leanne Barnard

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxkrnQM2pMU&list=PLrBf_FpjKbwfEaWJpu2SQpRbwmpNnDp9W&index=1

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda
    a. Change the agenda to reflect that the car counter (under public works) was on 58, not on 242

2. Review/approve minutes of the September 16th special meeting
    a. Mark motioned to approve the minutes, Leanne seconded the motion

3. Katherine Sims attended the meeting and spoke about her rationale for running for senate, she outlined her concerns and her platform of fiscal responsibility and voting against increased taxation on Vermonters.
    a. Mark outlined some challenges that he has had with VTrans not being responsive to needs with regard to bridges and critical infrastructure including reimbursement for roads
    b. Suzanne also mentioned the conditions of roads and the challenges that the town faces
    c. Emily talked about the vibrancy of the community but feels that this is at risk due to lack of affordability reducing those that are able and willing to volunteer, also that young families are not moving in because of housing prices
    d. Leanne commented about the plethora of short term rentals and their impacts on housing in the community
    e. Charlie spoke about changes in Act 250

4. Public Works
    a. Municipal Wastewater Project
        i. Updates/Discussion (*discussion*)
            1. Clarification of project timeline
                a. Engineers are working to get this process working so that requests for bids go out this fall and they will hopefully be returned early next year
            2. Approval of Purchase and Sale, Main St. pump station parcel
                a. The appraisal was done and came back at $12,000, the town negotiated the purchase price to $10,000. A Federal requirement

is that infrastructure is built to withstand a 500 year flood level. This may not be feasible at this location though it could be feasible. The recommendation was to continue with this purchase of the land to use as a staging area for the project and then it can either be converted or sold later on.

b. Mark motioned to purchase the property for $10,000, Leanne seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0.

c. Soil borings will continue, a different contractor has been hired to complete this work. Charlie is working with just a few land owners to get permission for borings, all others will be done in the ROW

b. Streetscape Project Update (*discussion*)

   i. Engineers continue with this work

c. General Updates *(discussion/updates)*

   i. Regan Road Power Project

      1. Fire Department needs a small structure up there to house communications. It needs to be a 6x6 temperature controlled building. There is some money in the ARPA funding.
      2. Charlie asked Scott to work with Doug to get cost estimates to complete this work

   ii. Fuller Bridge Road

      1. Culverts are done, 9 have been replaced. This work should be complete until spring, lots of what was there was pieced together
      2. Charlie asked Scott to get an estimate for paving for budget season

   iii. Culverts and Ditching work re-cap

      1. Scott reports that 33 culverts were changed out this year, 600 loads of fill have been removed from the ditches on the roads
         a. This will help to inform future planning for the road crew as they think to spring and next summer
      2. Truck 2 is completely disabled and the parts needed are backordered 4-6 months. The spare truck that we purchased last year will have to help fill in, though it doesn't have the same capacity as Truck 2
         a. Scott has hired out a truck to complete the hauling of sand for the winter season
      3. There is one culvert in Montgomery Heights that has to be replaced ASAP as it has completely failed and is backing up water
      4. There will be a need to budget for a new truck in the next cycle as it takes about two years lead time to get a truck
      5. Roberta asked about the cost of renting an excavator versus hiring out the work

   iv. Car Counter on Rt. 58 results

      1. Charlie reports that we have not received the results from this count
      2. Charlie has discussed with VTrans the status of 58, it is technically Town Road with a State Number. Charlie is trying to determine how this is determined and if it is based on traffic. Scott reports that it remains a Town Road because it is not open year round.

   v. Proposed purchase of chipper (*potential board action*)

      1. Scott has been looking to purchase a chipper, he looked for grants, but grants are only for new equipment. Scott has found a used chipper for $8,000, it has records from Vaillancourts.

2. Roberta asked about the old chipper that the town had. This was sold because it was not efficient.
3. Suzanne motioned to approve $8,000 for funding the purchase of a new chipper. Emily seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-0.

5. Visitors
   a. Katherine Sims – Candidate for Vermont Senate, spoke at the opening of the meeting
   b. Merle asked about lights left on in the building when the building was empty. Merle also asked about a culver that is blocked by his driveway.

6. Old Business
   a. Town Hall Committee status (*update/discussion*)
      i. Building Use Policy updates/Fee Schedule (*potential board action*)
         1. Tosca reports about the Town Hall Kitchen and that it falls under the allowable "occasional use" health inspection rules.
         2. If this kitchen were to pass health inspection, it would need a considerable amount of plumbing work
         3. Discussion ensued about a lease for Heart Full Kitchen, the food shelf, conflict on the Town Hall Committee board about use of spaces, etc.
         4. Tosca informally asked if the board supports this work and the board does, so she will move toward writing a lease agreement
   b. Food Shelf @ Grange – Full Heart Kitchen (*discussion, potential board action)*
      i. See Above
   c. NWATV Request (*board action*)
      i. $600 was given out of the FY'24 budget and we have $600 allocated for FY'25. Charlie will have a check for the '25 contribution sent immediately and additional funding will be reviewed during budget season
   d. KBS FY24 Audit agreement (*board action*)
      i. The audit agreement is based on the number of hours that the audit takes to complete. The estimate is for about $37,000 for this year.
         1. Suzanne motioned to sign the letter of engagement with KBS, Mark seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0.

7. New Business
   a. MERP Grant application for PSB renovations *(update)*
      i. This grant funding will be favorable to the work that will be done at the PSB. Liz is working to fill out the application.
   b. Chair Yoga at PSB request (*board action*)
      i. Suzanne motioned to allow this activity to continue in the PSB space, Emily seconded. Motioned passed 5-0-0.
   c. Director of Emergency Management vacancy (*discussion*)
      i. Greg Lucas needs to step back from this position. Our emergency plan has lapsed and it needs to be updated.
         1. We are looking to fill this position ASAP
   d. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses *(board action)*—none
   e. Fleet Permits *(board action*)—none

8. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters
9. Review Action Items for Board Members
10. Adjourn: Suzanne motion to adjourn, Mark seconded. Passed 5-0-0, meeting adjourned 8:07pm.