

Selectboard Regular Meeting

Monday, February 27, 2023

6:00 P.M.

Chris Letourneau Meeting Room In-Person and/or Teleconference/Virtual

Approved: unapproved

Selectboard Present: Doug Bergstrom (Board Chair), Gary Wright (Vice-Chair), Dawn Penney, Carl Rosenquist, Carolyn Branagan

Selectboard Absent:

Staff Present: Cheryl Letourneau, Administrator and Town Clerk

Public Present: Tony Heinlein, Suzanna Brown

Public Present Zoom: Karen Gonyeau

- 1. Call to Order:** D. Bergstrom called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm; C. Rosenquist lead the flag salute.
- 2. Chair Update:** D. Bergstrom states that an accusation of harassment of town employees had been made on social media which was very concerning to the board so a call was made to the town attorney who stated that unless there is a charge of harassment made, there is nothing that can be done as there is no report to investigate. C. Letourneau spoke to every town employee asking them if they had any claims of harassment. All the employees said no. C. Branagan asks if the person making the charge on social media has also denied this. C. Letourneau states that she spoke to a person involved in that post and he stated that it was more of a micromanaging issue than a harassment issue. This person involved in the social media post, is not a town employee. C. Letourneau is working with VLCT to set up sexual harassment training, harassment training, and sexual identity training which is now rolled into one training called getting along. C. Letourneau states the training is expensive. S. Brown suggests inviting other towns to participate with Georgia and share the cost. C. Letourneau states that she was advised that the training be mandatory for all town employees. D. Bergstrom states that the State Legislature is working on a bill to limit school choice options and feels like it is not getting enough airplay. He wants to make sure that town's people are aware of the conversation happening in Montpelier

around school choice. He says this would have huge impacts for the town and that historically Georgia residents are pro school choice. C. Branagan states she wouldn't get too concerned yet and she will find out more.

3. Selectboard Minutes and Warrants:

- a. Motion to approve minutes with a spelling correction for 2.17.23 made by G. Wright, seconded by C. Rosenquist, all in favor.
- b. Approval of Warrants AP #55

AP #55: G. Wright states that there was some confusion on the Vermont State Police invoice and that C. Letourneau is checking in to it. G. Wright made a motion to approve warrant #55 excluding the VSP invoice, C. Rosenquist seconded, all in favor.

4. Public Comment (For items not on the agenda)

D. Bergstrom asked for public comments.
S. Brown states that the Conservation Committee had permission to hire Rabbit Tracks to work on Trail #4 but then it got put on hold while negotiations were going on. She is requesting permission to call them and get put back on their list. D. Penney made a motion to approve Rabbit Tracks for the Conservation Commission as per Suzanna's request, seconded by G. Wright; discussion, C. Branagan states that this is just a reauthorization of action the board already took because it is in a different fiscal year. All in favor. S. Brown asks if she could have a copy of the job description for the Recreation Director/Grant Writer position and asks if the current Recreation Board is still in existence. D. Bergstrom responds that it is until they get a Recreation Director then that board would become a committee for the Recreation Director to work with.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Board Business:

- a. Legal Trail #4
C. Rosenquist states that on 2/22/23 the signing of the agreement was accomplished.
- b. Cannabis Regulations - Action
C. Rosenquist made a motion to accept the Cannabis Regulations as proposed by the Planning Commission to be added to the Development Regulation Manual, D. Penney seconded; discussion; C. Branagan states she plans to vote no because she doesn't feel it is in the best interest of

the town. She has received several phone calls from town's people that are opposed to cannabis growing in town. C. Branagan states that she has told them that it is the state's structure which left the town no option other than to fit it into our own zoning ordinances. S. Brown says that the state has deemed that cannabis growing is allowed in the state of Vermont, everything except for retail, so if this is voted down, people in town can do it anywhere they want. There will be no regulation about where it happens. Passing this regulation is a way that the town can have some control. 4 in favor, C. Branagan opposed.

c. Zoning Fees - action

D. Bergstrom turns the meeting over to G. Wright, vice Chair, as he is speaking as the Zoning Administrator. G. Wright states that D. Bergstrom has been asked to take a look at the Zoning Fee structure and make some recommendations. D. Bergstrom states that with the amount of time and expenses spent on permitting, in most cases the town is losing money. He states he looked at 10-12 towns across the state which are all over the board in what they charge so he narrowed his research to surrounding towns to come up with a new fee structure. D. Bergstrom met with S. Brown and she is in favor of the new permit fee structure. (see attached schedule) C. Rosenquist made a motion to accept the new zoning fees as presented, C. Branagan seconded, all in favor. G. Wright returned the meeting to the Chair.

d. Stormwater Payment - Action

C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve the payment of the stormwater permit fee, G. Wright seconded, all in favor.

e. Telling and Hillman Financial Report

C. Letourneau states that warrants will now be emailed to the treasurer, the bookkeeper, and the administrator because in 2021 there were a couple missing warrants. G. Wright states that the report by Telling and Hillman refers to this as a control issue and now all invoices will be mailed directly to the town office, sent to the appropriate department head for approval, and tracked to make sure they come back on a timely basis. The use of P.O.'s will also be a benefit. G. Wright also states that all the changes the board has made are recommendations from Telling and Hillman.

G. Wright made a motion to allow the Chair to sign off on the FEMA drawdown, seconded by C. Rosenquist, all in favor.

G. Wright states that he is troubled by the notice from the IRS saying a deposit was not submitted correctly and asks if there is information on that. D. Bergstrom states that the notice was just received and it's a treasurer question. An email will be sent to Amber when she returns from vacation. D. Bergstrom states that the treasurer is also having trouble getting reports from Paychex. C. Letourneau states that Paychex is currently building the town's general ledger and then everything should run fine.

7. Selectboard Sub Committee Reports:

- a. Town Administrator - C. Letourneau
There was another call about trash being dumped on 104A. There is a call in to VSP to see what options the town has. Election is coming up soon. Training for election workers is happening on Thursday (3/2/23).
- b. Buildings - (G. Wright and C. Rosenquist)
G. Wright talked to Todd Cadieux about the heat issue at the town garage. The temperature going to the radiant heat is 130 degrees as recommended. The leak is due to the window they had problems with last summer so it will be fixed this spring when it's warm enough to tear it out and fix it. The wall damage from the plow truck will be fixed by M. Connor replacing the panel. The meter on the diesel tank is leaking and a replacement will be coming. The new security system on the firewall was installed at the town offices. Philo Security is set to go.
- c. Budget & Finance - (G. Wright & D. Bergstrom)
G. Wright made a motion to move ARPA funds into the 2023 budget as follows: \$200,000 for paving to the Highway Reserve, \$200,000 to the Recreation Department Reserve, \$20,000 for the fencing resolution to Public Works, \$300,000 culvert GIDC in the Culvert Account, \$75,000 for security upgrades to Public Works, and \$12,800 for building maintenance to Public Works/Building Maintenance, seconded by C. Rosenquist, all in favor. D. Bergstrom would like to make a YouTube channel to post all the meetings on to alleviate the problems people are having accessing the meetings on Zoom. He will come back with pricing if there is a price. The Beach was closed for the day due to ice conditions.
- d. Personnel- (D. Bergstrom & C. Rosenquist)
- e. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation - (D. Penney & C. Branagan)
The Beach was closed for the day due to ice conditions.
- f. Committees at the direction of the chair- none at this time

Other: D. Bergstrom says that this is the last meeting before Town Meeting and he wants to say that this is by far the best board he has ever worked on and he is very proud to have been a part of it and of all that they were able to accomplish

in a short amount of time. He hopes that after the Town Meeting all the same faces will be at the table and believes it is in the best interest of the town for that to happen, but it is in the hands of the voters now. G. Wright says he thinks people have no idea how much time it takes to be on the selectboard. C. Branagan also says she hopes this board is reelected as it's a strong board and gets a lot done. As the only selectboard member who isn't up for election and on behalf of the town, she would like to thank all the current board members.

Plan next meeting and agenda:

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 6 pm Meet and Greet; 7 pm Informational Meeting, Town Fire Department
Saturday, March 4, 2023 11-12, Town Library Meet and Greet
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 Voting by Australian Ballot 7am - 7 pm GEMS
Monday, March 13, 2023 6 pm Reorganization of Selectboard

Executive Session (if needed, pursuant to V.S.A. sec 313)

7:21pm C. Rosenquist moves that the board go into Executive Session to review issues that premature disclosure may be detrimental to individuals involved or the Town Selectboard, seconded by D. Penney, all in favor.

D. Penney and D. Bergstrom recused themselves from Executive Session.

8:04 pm C. Rosenquist moves that the board comes out of Executive Session. C. Rosenquist made a motion that C. Letourneau will receive \$110,000 for her continued employment as Town Clerk and part time Town Administrator. These positions on the open market, if separately employed, would be \$70,000 for the Town Clerk and \$80,000 for the Town Administrator. This allows the town a \$40,000 savings in salaries plus benefits, seconded by G. Wright, all in favor.

Meeting Adjourned.

