

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Town Office Building and Virtual

Present: Matt Rouleau, Rodney Graham, Francis Covey Jessica Worn and Jasmin Couillard
Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m.

Set the Agenda – Amend agenda to add Warrants SB20060, SB20062 and Payroll 1/17/21. Matt made motion. Jasmin second. So moved.

Review of Open Public Comments – Rodney read rules.

SB Announcements – None

Public Announcements – None

Commissions/Committees/Trustees/Other Board Announcements - None

Approve Minutes –Francis made motion to approve 12/21/20 Selectboard Meeting Minutes. Jessica second. So moved.

Approve Warrants – Matt made motion to approve SB20053, SB20055, SB20056, SB20058, 2B20059, SB20060, SB20062, PAYROLL 12/20/20, 1/3/21 & 1/17/21. Francis second. So moved.

Town Manager’s Report – See Attached

Chris Peloquin asked about reviewing bills. Was stated that he may come in and review bills in the Town Manager’s Office.

New Business –

Industry Street Beaver Issues: John Aberth from Protect Our Wildlife gave a brief introduction of their organization. Stated that the Memorandum of Understanding was revised to allow the killing of beavers rather than address maintenance or problems with devices. The question was asked if the baffles failed would town be liable. Aberth stated that the town if it installs the baffles would have done a good faith effort to prevent flooding and should not be liable. But he also stated he was not an attorney.

Mike Covey expressed his concerns with the POW organization.

Matt asked if there have ever been any beaver issues in this area before. Higgins stated that in the 10 years she has been Town Manager there had not been any issues. Rodney commented that we should not fix a problem we do not have and asked Aberth why he had contacted the town. Aberth stated a town’s person had expressed their concerns to Aberth and that was why he contacted the town.

Matt made motion to table the issue in the event in the coming years the town needs the assistance. Francis second. So moved.

Large Animal Ordinance – 1st reading – Tabled until Selectboard can meet in person.

Unsafe Building Ordinance – Tabled until Selectboard can meet in person.

Town Meeting – Rodney stated that the House and Senate had passed H48, which would give the town the option of postponing town meeting until a later date. All elected officers would stay in place until such time the town meeting vote was held. Or the town has the options of holding an Australian Ballot in lieu of in person town meeting. Matt made motion to hold an Australian Ballot town meeting with people requesting absentee ballots if they choose along with open polling on March 2, 2021. Jasmin second. Jessica asked that an article be put on the ballot to vote to continue with Australian Ballot and no longer hold in person

Town Meeting. Francis stated that maybe this would be a too soon reaction. Rodney agreed. Question called: This year only hold Australian Ballot form of Town Meeting with requesting absentee ballots within person voting if people so choose. So moved.

Town Report: Matt made motion to mail out town reports this year with a notice stating that they would not be mailed next year but would be available for pick up or you can request to have one mailed. Yes vote – Matt, Francis, Jessica, and Jasmin. No vote – Rodney.

ATV Ordinance Yearly Review: Rodney stated that the discussion would be respectful or get shut down. Travis Pierce stated that the ATV Club had 11 new landowners allowing trails on their properties. A petition to remove Boyce and Tripp Road was submitted by the residents of those roads and a petition to add McCarthy Road was submitted by the residents of that road. Chris Peloquin stated that from a community aspect anyone that he has come in contact on his road has been respectful. That the ATV Club has promoted sense of community comradery and economic stimulus to the town and is not a detriment to the community. Francis stated that the VASA registered machines have tags so if there are any complaints, residents would be able to tell if they were legal users.

Audrey Fargo expressed concerns with use of Gilbert Road by ATVs. She has had to contact the State Police to complain. Shaun Boyce agreed with Audrey's concerns. This was why when they wrote the ordinance, they added the option to petition to remove roads. Richard Flies stated that 70% of users of Tripp and Boyce were disruptive and were not following the rules.

Courtney Wade stated that this was an unfair depiction of the ATV users.

Mike Covey felt that the issue Audrey Fargo is having is a neighborly dispute. He does not want to see the town lose the economic and recreation opportunity that this has created. Urged the Flies and Boyce's to have patience with the process and that Travis is transitioning from roads to trail systems but this takes time.

Chris Peloquin supported Mike Covey's statement and thanked the landowners who have signed on to allow growing of the trail system.

Rodney read the letter from the Flies and from Larry Hebert.

Francis respects the ordinance as voted on and respects Boyce and Tripp Road residents' concerns. Asked do we want to tear apart what we have gained or try to bring together with continuity?

Matt asked if Travis had spoken to the Tripp, Boyce, and Gilbert Road residents about their concerns. He said that he had.

Travis will speak with the landowner up on Pleasant Street regarding new trail system that may help with the Tripp and Boyce Road issues. Matt made motion to table the Tripp/Boyce Road petition decision until the February 8, 2021 Selectboard Meeting. Jasmin second. So moved. Francis abstained.

Matt made motion to add the McCarthy Road to the trail system. Francis second. So moved.

Matt made motion to table the ½ mile clause addition until the 2/8/21 Selectboard Meeting. Jessica second. So moved.

Old Business – None

Open Public Comments – Richard Flies thanked the Selectboard and the new road foreman for how well the roads are being maintained this winter. Also stated it was nice to see local boys grow into these jobs. Chris Peloquin agreed with Mr. Flies.

Chris Peloquin thanks Francis for his services on the Selectboard. Francis thanked him for his comment.

Around the Table – None

Executive Session – None

Adjourn – Jasmin made motion to adjourn at 10:05p.m. Matt Second. So moved.

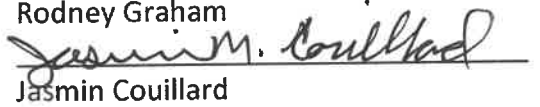
Respectfully Submitted

Jacqueline Higgins



Matt Rouleau

Rodney Graham



Jasmin Couillard



Jessica Worn



Francis Covey

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Delinquent Taxes \$170,710.53 Water \$17,947.55, Sewer \$24,709.73

COVID-19 Grant approved with the State. Sent in all invoices and cost incurred in for reimbursement. Received reimbursement. Grant closed. \$86,000.00
Received a grant for a new Defibrillator of \$34,000.00. Our current one is obsolete, and you can no longer get parts for. New one no cost to the town.
Grant for PPE and Hazard Pay EMS received totaling \$16,406.00.

Trainings/Webinars:

Voting by Aust. Ballot 12/17/20

Memorial Day Celebration:

Tentative date May 22, 2021, scheduled events fireworks, parade, Flea Market/Craft Festival and Fire Department Chicken BBQ on Seaver Ball Field.

911 signs still available \$20.00 each, fundraiser for the Fire Dept. and Ambulance. Still have some available. Contact the Town Manager's.

Town Office – Town Clerk's Office is open to the public as of 1/4/21. – only 2 at a time are allowed at the counter. Appointments are still being made for vault time. Morning and Afternoon. Call the Town Clerk for scheduling. Town Manager's office is open by appointment.

Phone System: Transition has begun for new phone system. Will be completed by the end of the month.

Sewer/Water –

Vermont Public Utility grant for Water/Sewer delinquent bills has closed. 8 people took advantage of the funding. \$4500.00 in payments for delinquent water/sewer received.

Library –

Driveway Permit is pending for Rte. 64 handicap access.

Emergency Services – Fire Chief, Ambulance Director and I are meeting with Bill Bon yak on 1/18/21 regarding policing assistance and dispatching services.

Staff Assistant – Advertising will begin next week for opening for (Assist. Treas., Assist. To the Listers and Assist. To the Town Manger). Had meeting with Assist. Treas. And Assessor explaining the new position and transition.

HIGHWAY –

Road Log attached.

Winter maintenance and Equipment maintenance.

Sent out 30 letters to residents for plowing into or across the town roads.

Received the final release letter on the investigation/remediation of contaminated properties rule of the former underground gas/diesel storage tanks at the Town Garage.

New seasonal crew member working out very well. Road Foreman and I are very pleased with his work and his mechanical skills are an asset. We would like to hire him to fill the 5th man opening position. He needs to let his former employer know soon that he would not be returning to work in the spring.

Road Foreman's 6-month probation is up the end of February. Working out very well – no issues.

New Truck quotes sent via email

Virtual

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD

MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1/18/21

Courtney Wade Chnswade Guest #1

David Shendan, Kristy Pirie, Sophia Royce,

Jackie Higgins (JH)

Rodney Craham

Francis Corey (CCHO)

Jasmin Couillard

Barbara Craham

Kate

Kaitlin Wheatley

Audrey + Celen Darling / Farge

Condon Pirie

Samantha Lefebvre

C1 - Chris Peleguin

Mike Corey

David Telcore

Rich Turner

C2 - Matt Rousseau

Kristy Pirie

Rich Chalmers

John Abutz

C3 - Travis

Charles Savioia

Jessica Worn

C-5

Shaun Boyce

C-6

- Richard Flyers C-9

C-4 Me/Jackie

C-7

Travis Pierce

C-8

Clayton Woodworth