

Minutes Select Board meeting 6/25/2020

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

Present: Andrea Ogden, John Ogden, Steve Hall, Michael Jeffery, Jim Swartzentruber, Harry Lux, Mary English and Will Goodwin.

Harry Lux gave an update on the Blue Flame zoom ZBA meeting. It was noted that the application was deficient in a number of areas and the applicant was asked to present additional information. The follow up meeting was initially scheduled for July 2nd, but Blue Flame has asked for a delay in order to have the necessary time to gather the information. By the 2nd of July, a date for the second meeting will be scheduled. It was suggested that the Town get a Zoom account to facilitate the storing of the recorded meeting.

Harry brought up the question as to whether the Road Commissioner has the authority to remove hazardous trees in the Town's right away. The Select Board must give the Road Commissioner the authority to make these decisions without going through the planning commission process.

Harry also brought up the question of a how to deal with blighted houses in Landgrove. The question was raised as to whether a potential ordinance is the responsibility of the Select Board or the Planning Commission. Will is going to research what other towns have in terms of ordinances regarding blighted houses.

Will would like to buy a file cabinet for about \$450 that will go in the safe and additional money for file folders. The Select Board voted to approve Will a "not to exceed" amount of \$750 for all the necessary items.

Jim Swartzentruber and Susan Lennox is the Southern VT Communication Union District (VT CUD). The group has \$60,000 from a federal grant for a feasibility study regarding can this district move forward to accomplish the goal of reliable hi-speed internet in our community. It is possible that the CUD may be a recipient from some of the stimulus money from the state. He indicated that there is some traction via Comcast through Susan Lennox. The first step is to gather information regarding our demographics. John suggested that we use both email and postal mail to gather this information. The Select Board voted to pursue this comcast idea.

Michael Mole reported to Steve that the Sled Run road sign has been stolen again. The town has a standing policy that the town will buy the signs for the private roads and the road owners will be responsible for putting up the sign. Steve and John will order the sign.

John opened the agenda item of the town adopting a resolution for equal justice. John asked whether we, as a town, wanted to put forth a statement that included a strong call to action. Several ideas and perspectives were shared. The select board asked Mary to rewrite our statement to include the sentiments expressed, including a request to the town's people to put forth ideas about town-wide action. She agreed to put forth a draft.

Andrea reported that it appears that the neighboring towns are not planning on adjusting their tax due deadlines.

Motion to nominate Andrea as interim Delinquent Tax collector. It was agreed that the town would continue to advertise the two listings as open.

Andrea reported that the two auditors are taking an active role toward understanding the audit process in our town. She has a meeting scheduled with them on July 6th.

Steve reported that there is no new information on the Brook Road question. TH-11 at the end of Ridge Road. Greg Christenson from the AOT has been unable to advise the town.

Michael put forth an email with a comparative format for the two potential locations. He suggested that a committee meeting including Urs Joder and Bruno Licata be scheduled on July 9th after the select board meeting at 9:00am.

Adjourned at 7:43