

SelectBoard January 13, 2022 via Zoom 8am

Attendance: John Ogden, Michael Jeffery, Steve Hall, Chrystal Cleary, Andrea Ogden, from the Manchester Fieldhouse Project: John O Keefe, Cindy, Will Drunsic

Cindy spoke about the proposed **Northshire Community Fieldhouse**: the size and amenities offered, the costs and apportionment methods among towns within the “footprint” of anticipated users, the goals of the programming for individuals and schools. While Manchester will own the Fieldhouse, and supply an Exec Director, each contributing town will have a representative on the Oversight Board. (images, building plans can be seen at <https://northshirefieldhouse.org>) The group is requesting a non-binding advisory Question be placed on the Town Meeting ballot in each town which will help guide the expectations for the future of the project and its scope.

Michael Jeffery- asked if the group have looked into ways private donations may be made, or how members of a Town who want to belong but their town votes no? What happens to each towns contribution if some Towns don't vote to join up? John O'Keefe- the project would be reexamined and possibly downsized if the total funding could not be reached. Individual towns and memberships would not come into play if the school rents court time, considering that our schools serve kids from multiple towns. John asks the Fieldhouse group to send us the Question language for the ballot, and if they can supply a rep to answer questions at the Info Session before the vote.

Procurement Policy: steve sent a copy of Landgrove's Procurement Policy to Jim Henderson for our file regarding grant eligibility requirements. He thinks it should be sufficient.

Debris blower: Carter Hall picked up the debris blower, it is at Jay's garage being assembled. To get reimbursed, the Town needs to provide a copy of the maintenance schedule and a video of the blower in use, which we may not be able to capture until spring. The SB will pay Carter an \$80 flat fee + the standard IRS mileage reimbursement of 58.5 cents per mile, which comes to \$93.

Town Truck: Steve reports that repairs to the Town Truck are now up to \$19,000/year in repair bills, while the town invest \$30,000 a year into the replacement fund. It's time to actively work on ordering a new Town Truck.

Sandbox Progress: is hung up at the access road permit stage. Steve will approach Zapata at the State again. Emphasis angle that we're trying to solve the larger wetlands problem of the sandpile storage and the degree of compromise of the other wetland for the access to the new site would be a much lesser impact. Michael will reach out to Tom C. to keep him consistently informed.

The SelectBoard members have gone over the roster of **AV equipment for the Town Hall** and have pared down to list, with just a few questions remaining. John will consult with Silloway, who provide our other Tech services for their advice.

Town Meeting 2022- February 29, 6pm - the legislature has voted to allow floor-vote Towns to again use the remote Info-session with voting by Australian (pre-printed) ballots taking place the following day March 1, when we must also vote the school district ballots anyway. At the time of the Select Board meeting, the Governor had not yet signed the bill, but the SB voted to have Town Meeting in this

remote session/Aus ballot way like last year, pending the completion of this bill by the Governor.

The Select Board voted to **Re-Appoint all of our current Appointed Officers** for the 2022 calendar year, as follows:

Zoning Administrator: Will Goodwin

911 Coordinator: Will Goodwin

Road Commissioner: Steve Hall

Fire Warden: Karl Pfister

Assistant Fire Warden: Jeremiah Evarts

Emergency Management: John Ogden

Health Officer: Cameron Chalmers

Planning Commission: Harry Lux, Michael Morfit, Ryan Foster, Mary Licata, (Josh Wengerd has moved from Town and resigned from service on this Board)

Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Clerk are appointed by the Treasurer and Clerk, respectively and the positions are currently vacant. Michael Jeffery registers the view that greater effort should be made to reach further, perhaps with a newspaper ad, to find someone for these positions, as training assistants aids with continuity and competency. Assistant T and C are not required to be registered voters of the Town, so they could conceivably be found from out of Town, but this limits the return of investing in training as only registered Landgrove voters can be elected as Clerk or Treasurer, and this hire could only ever be Assistant. A suggestion was made to explore hiring the Town Treasurer instead of electing that office, however this would certainly require the approval of the voters to convert the office to hired, first. The voters alternatively could opt to change the Treasurer to an Appointed position, which would give the SB the power to remove Treasurers, with cause, which cannot be done with Elected ones. This situation has no easy solution and will merit further research and discussion. The VLCT should be consulted to learn the process for this.

Budget for 2022: Roads The SelectBoard examined the line items in detail with the Treasurer. The Board voted to apply \$32,000 of prior year surplus to the FY 22 budget and the balance of \$52,758.69 applied to the unallocated reserve fund. The Board also voted to move the Vermont Woodlands annual membership fee to the Town Lands line item.

General Fund Budget 2022: The Select Board voted to apply \$20,000 surplus to the General Fund 2022 budget, leaving \$18,099.43 to go into the unallocated Reserve Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM