

Town of Readsboro
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
The Readsboro Town Office
June 26, 2019

Selectboard Present: Raymond Eilers, David Marchegiani, Joseph Berard
Others present: Karen Boisvert, Charlene Candiloro, Normajean Marchegiani, Linda Donahue, Norman Wilber, Larry Hopkins, Cindy Florence, Billy Wheeler

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Additions/ Deletions Approval of Agenda:

Summer Help to be added under Old Business and Billy Wheeler to be added under DPW Report. Raymond made a motion to accept the agenda as corrected, Joseph seconded. So voted.

Reading & Approval of Records:

Minutes of previous Regular Meeting of 6/19/19

Raymond made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting of 6/19/19 as written, Joseph seconded. So voted.

Fiscal Matters:

Budget Summary was reviewed. All accounts have been funded for the year. David still has questions about the Town Owned Building Fund. He would like a detailed transaction print out for review.

Selectboard Administrative Report:

A) Updates:

- 1.) Mitchell, Normajean, David and I attended the Setting Water Rates workshop in Rutland on Thursday. Report to follow later in the meeting.
- 2.) West Oil has been contacted for a prebuy price. They left a message on my machine but no price. I will follow up in the morning.
- 3.) Admins office is finished and reorganized.
- 4.) Bridge 25 information will be added to website on the home page in the morning as suggested by Ray.
- 5.) Sheriff's office has confirmed that 2 officers will be present Saturday evening 6:30-10 for the fireworks.
- 6.) JTC has returned a signed contract to the Town agreeing to our terms. I will contact Windham Regional to see if they have a timeline available yet.
- 7.) Norman met with Dubois & King to escort them to the 3 possible build sites for the new garage this morning. RFP's are due Monday 7/8/19

Old Business:

A) 2019 Paving- Update

2019 Paving update to be discussed with the DPW report

B) Selectmen's Compensation for attending Workshops/ Seminars- Discussion & Action:

Rate was set in July 2018 at minimum wage.

C) Sheriff's Contract- Discussion & Action:

Joseph made a motion to sign the 2019 Sheriff's Contract for 10 hours every other week, David seconded. So voted.

D) Summer Help- Discussion & Action:

Veronika Vernon declined the Towns offer.

Raymond made a motion to hire Hunter Boisvert and Aaron Cole Monday –Thursday from 6:30-3pm at \$11.50 per hour, Joseph seconded. So voted. This position will run 7/1/19- 9/1/19.

New Business & Communications:

A) DPW Report: Discussion & Action:

“The past two weeks we still are cleaning ditches/ culvert ends and have been continuing the grading of roads. The roadside mowing has also begun.

We have three sections of road that I want the board to be aware of that are going to need some extensive repairs very soon. Bosley Hill, Jarvis Hill and Phelps Lane. The three of them are sagging and progressively getting worse. Some proactive repairs need to be addressed before the roads collapse and then it becomes an emergency situation.”

Due to not receiving any bids for paving Raymond asked Norman to call North Eastern Paving and Beaudion to inquire there status and get quotes if possible. If all options are exhausted without any results paving can be put off until next summer with an RFP going out this fall.

Norman has the boring reports for Phelps Lane and we will need to hire an engineer to fix the road. Estimates will be needed before moving forward. David suggested looking into possibly securing a grant for Slope Stabilization.

Gravel Crushing has begun

Norman escorted a representative from Dubois & King to the 3 possible building sites for the new garage and they took pictures and asked a few questions. Otter Creek Engineering out of Middlebury will be coming on Tuesday for the same tour.

Billy Wheeler came to inform the board that his driveway needs to be addressed with the sidewalk contractor. They grade is incorrect. The current driveway is lower than the original with open seams and an unusual ramp connecting the drive to the road. This will be added to the punch list of things to be corrected/ addressed before the Town signs off on the project.

David asked what was wrong with Normans one ton. He stated that he had a recall taken care of as well as a few other minor repairs done while it was in the shop.

B) Parcel Map RFP- Discussion & Action:

Tabled until next week when a work session will be scheduled.

C) Report on the Setting Water Rates Workshop- Discussion & Action

WATER RATE SETTING WORKSHOP

The morning was spent on various funding options if needed.

The afternoon was spent on working from a small town scenario on setting rates from 4 different perspectives.

1. Full cost recovery/ revenue stability
2. Encouraging Conservation
3. Fostering business friendly practices
4. Maintaining affordability

4 different formulas were provided to determine rate with whichever perspective the town has in mind and a worksheet to visualize what that would look like for a single elderly, normal family household, excessive residential and a business user.

Unfortunately I did not find this workshop to be very helpful as it did not really provide much new information.

The big take away that I got is that the Town needs to make sure all ECU's are accurate before we can move on to set a rate as this will determine the amount of users or total accounts because we may have 130 accounts but that's not how our billing is determined. Example: Apartments are billed out for each so a 4 apartment building will get a bill for 4 times the normal bill of a single household, etc.

I have spoken with Mitchell and he agrees this workshop was essentially for a town that was starting from scratch. He feels that we should be thinking of generating some capital for future projects. They used Readsboro as an example of a Town that is doing their rates correctly but it should be adjusted for inflation every couple of years.

Larry asked if the discussion was based on small towns and was told that yes it was there was no discussion about large Municipalities.

D) VLCT Updates- Discussion & Action:

VLCT UPDATES

1. Can the Town use an accounting firm outside of Vermont to perform the yearly audit?

The Town is required to hire a public accountant that is licensed in the State of Vermont regardless of what state they are based out of.

2. Can the Selectboard change/ amend the Zoning Bylaws themselves or does it have to be done by the Planning Commission?

Changes can be initiated by the Planning Commission, Selectboard, or any other persons or entity. 24 V.S.A. 4441(a) If an amendment has been made by the Planning Commission the Selectboard still has the opportunity to make minor and/ or substantial changes pursuant to the timeframes imposed by 24 V.S.A. 4442 (b) prior to adopting them or presenting them to the town's voters for approval depending on how bylaws are adopted in your town.

3. How does the Selectboard go about a pay increase for themselves?

The voters approve a stand-alone article at town meeting or approve the towns budget, which includes a line item for Selectboard compensation.

4. Can the Selectboard accept donated houses that have been abandoned?

VLCT recommended that I contact our Towns attorney on this matter. Bob Fisher advised that yes the Town could but it can get messy and advises to go a tax sale route. If the Town accepted the property as a gift it would need to be voted on at a meeting as well as the plan for it moving forward. After acquiring the property the Town could only charge for cost involved ie: demolition, unpaid taxes, unpaid utility, etc. The Town cannot make a profit at all.

5. Specific timeline process for water shut offs?

This matter has come up several times so while on the phone for various other matters I asked with a very specific scenario. Billing for March 4th- April 4th goes out on April 5th and is due May 4th. Bill becomes delinquent on May 5th. Can the Town shut off on May 22nd or do we have to wait until June 22? The answer is May 22nd. The shut off states by statute "Delinquency" means failure to pay within 30 days of bill. "Notice" means pink slip sent **within** 40 days but no more than 20 days nor less than 14 days of disconnect date. Customer should be getting shut off in the same month they become delinquent if payment is not received. Some confusion might have arisen due to the fact that water/sewer is not the same as any other utility and is not governed the same through the Public Service Board.

E) School Board Replacement- Discussion & Action:

Cindy Florence presented a letter of interest and asked the Selectboard to recommended her to fill the vacant School Board seat. Larry thinks that Chum Sumners request for recommendations from the Selectboard is premature. He believes the Supervisory Union collects the letters of interest and then the Selectboard after reviewing the interested parties makes a recommendation. Karen will contact Chum Sumner for clarification on the process.

Hearing of Visitors:

Charlene Candiloro had some concerns with the school being considered for a potential site for the new town garage. She was told it was a just in case the school did close scenario and that the town was not actively pursuing closing it. Cindy Florence asked what the town's timeframe was for building the new garage. She was told hopefully within the next couple of years.

Executive Session if needed:

None

Fiscal Matters:

A) Signing of Selectboard orders/bills-

AP and Payroll were reviewed and signed

Adjournment:

Joseph made a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm, Raymond seconded. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Boisvert, Administrative Assistant
June 27, 2019