

Town of Readsboro
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
St. Joachim's Parish Hall
September 16, 2020

Selectboard Present: Raymond Eilers, David Marchegiani, Joseph Berard
Others present: Karen Boisvert, Jeremy Green, Todd Rich (Wireless Partners), Kate Wanner (The Trust for Public Land), Pat Dandrea (Green Mountain National Forest Services), Susan Fordon, Ruth O'Hearn, Michael Cole, Rhonda Smith, Omar Smith, Forrest Hicks

Call to Order:

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

Agenda Additions/ Deletions Approval of Agenda:

ATV Speeding and Town Planning Grant to be added to the agenda.

Raymond made a motion to accept the agenda as amended, Joseph second.

Reading & Approval of Records:

Minutes of Previous Regular Meeting of 9/2/2020

Raymond made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting of 9/2/2020 as corrected, Joseph second.

Fiscal Matters:

Review of Budget Status Report:

None

Selectboard Administrative Report:

A) Updates:

Administrative Assistants report was read

B) Selectboard Updates:

Raymond, David, and Jeremy met with officials in Shaftsbury to iron out design details. Plans should arrive soon for the new garage. Selectboard is optimistic to have a plan ready to present at the annual Town Meeting.

C) DPW Report:

The employee that was hired as Summer Help quit and walked off the job at 9am today.

1. Turner Road Culvert bid date and Prebid site meeting:

After a brief discussion, proceedings will be moved back 2 weeks. Prebid Site Visit to be scheduled for October 16, 2020 and deadline for bids will be October 30, 2020 at 1pm at the Town Office. Karen will notify Chris Taft and get RFP's ready to send out.

2. Winter Sand and Road Maintenance in Heartwellville- Discussion & Action:

Winter Sand and Winter Road Maintenance will be put out for bid.

3. Reclassification of TH33, TH17 and .41 miles of Phelps Lane- Discussion & Action:

After a brief discussion Raymond made a motion to continue with reclassifying TH 33 and TH 17 from Class 3 to Class 4, Joseph second. Karen will get the timeline together for the hearing and postings. The .41 miles of Phelps Lane will remain the same at this time.

4. Estimates for surveying- Discussion & Action:

After discussion, Raymond made a motion to hire KML Surveying & Design to survey a small section at the bottom of East Main Street for \$2,300

Old Business:

A) Hiring of Assessors Clerk- Discussion & Action:

The Selectboard held interviews on September 9 for the vacant Assessor Clerk position. Amber Holland was hired at \$18 per hour. Rhonda asked if this would be a conflict of interest for the Board of Civil Authority as Amber is a voting member as Town Clerk. Karen will check on it.

B) Town Website- Discussion & Action:

Karen got a quote of \$1,000 from Laurie at Enable to design a new website for the Town. The monthly fee afterwards would be \$180. Karen will investigate when the subscription with GoDaddy ends. Raymond would like to move forward with this.

C) 91 School Street- Discussion & Action:

Bob Fisher is still going through the proper steps in resolving this issue. David would like to have a letter sent to the owner asking for them to gift the property to the Town.

D) Cell Tower at the Firehouse- Discussion & Action:

Todd Rich from Wireless Partners came to discuss potentially erecting a 100-foot lightweight cell tower behind the Firehouse. They would like to lease a 20' X 20' piece of land but is concerned with the Zoning regulations. After much discussion Raymond asked Mr. Rich to move forward with the permits.

E) Zoning- Discussion & Action:

There was much discussion about inconsistencies in permitting. Rhonda reminded the Board that when the DRB reformed before COVID-19 that a joint meeting was discussed to have everyone on the same page as well as some training. This meeting would consist of members of the DRB, Selectboard, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator, and representatives from the States Agency of Natural Resources. This meeting will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business & Communications:

A) Water at the Transfer Station- Discussion & Action:

Codogni Plumbing and Heating gave the Town an estimate of \$1,500 to get water to the Transfer Station from an existing well. Matter tabled

B) Parcel being acquired by Green Mountain National Forrest- Discussion & Action:

Kate Wanner, Pat Dandrea and Susan Fordon came to the meeting to request a letter of support from the Selectboard for the acquisition of 111 acres from Susan Fordon and 93.5 acres of David Rubin, of Park Forestry NY LLC lands to Green Mountain National Forest. After a very long discussion on promises that have yet to be kept from previous land acquisitions by GMNF as well as the negative tax impact these sales create, the board tabled the matter.

C) ATV Speeding- Discussion & Action:

The Town has received several separate complaints about excessive speed from ATV's. Ruth O'Hearn expressed her concern that they could not see the ATV's coming down the hill while pulling out of their driveway. Michael Cole stated that the Jack Pines Pirates have been in contact with the State Game Warden Service as well as contracting with the Sheriff's Department to patrol the trails. They club also is working with the Town on purchasing full size speed limit signs to help educate members. Karen has had

conversations with the Bennington County Sheriff's Department on enforcement of speed limits and will reach out again to discuss with them the impact of changing the Towns Speed Ordinance.

D) Town Plan Grant-Discussion & Action:

The Planning Commission has asked for the Selectboard to sign the FY21 Municipal Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant. This grant would be used to revise the Town Plan. Raymond made a motion to sign the FY21 Municipal Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant letter, Joseph second.

Hearing of Visitors:

Omar updated the board as to the DVCUD's progress. He stated that they had received a \$100,000 grant from the State. \$80,000 is being used for additional pole studies for town's who do not currently have one. The Vendor Committee that Omar sits on meets every Monday.

Executive Session if needed:

None

Fiscal Matters:

A) Signing of Selectboard orders/bills-

AP and Payroll were reviewed and signed.

Adjournment:

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Boisvert, Administrative Assistant
September 17, 2020