

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting
7:00 pm
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Town Offices

Selectboard: Vice Chair Marie Jewett, Mike Audy, Kathy Barrett and Bruce Many
Selectboard Assistant: Pam Kingman
Absent: John Roleau

Visitors: Maggie Eaton (arrived at 7:15 pm) Steve Dupoise via phone

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

1. **Vermont Gran Fondo Bike Race:** Bruce Many made a motion to approve the request to use New Haven Roads (Halpin / River / South / Main) on Saturday, June 29, 2024, for the Vermont Gran Fondo bike race between the hours of 6:00 am and 10:00 am. Motion seconded by Mike Audy. 4 yes / 0 no
2. **RFP for Depot roof:** The Board called Steve Dupoise because they had questions about the RFP for the Depot roof. Most of the questions were around the dates that had been “plugged” in. Steve assured the Board that it was an estimate made by Caitlin Corkins who put the RFP together. Caitlin works for the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Kathy Barrett made a motion to authorize Steve Dupoise to firm up the dates on the Depot RFP and to advertise the request for RFP in the Addison Independent. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 4 yes / 0 no
3. **VLCT decision follow up to accident:** On January 14, 2024, one of the Road Crew accidentally backed into a personal vehicle on Dog Team Road, causing damage to the front-end passenger side. VLCT recommends the Town settle with the owner of the damaged vehicle, due to the truck having mirrors and a rear facing camera. Mike Audy made a motion to settle the claim from the January 14, 2024, accident on Dog Team Road. Seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 0 no
4. **Vermont Old Cemetery Grant for Riverside Cemetery:** The grant application will be accepted until May 1, 2024. Pam Kingman will take photos of the headstones that need the most attention. We will need many volunteers to scrub stones and some volunteers who can lift 50 -100 lbs.to help put some headstones back together. VOCA offers up to \$750.00, and they supply epoxy to repair the head stones. Pam Kingman said to date, the Riverside Cemetery Fund has approximately \$8,800 in it; these funds could be used to support the project. The grant application asks for an estimated cost for the project. Kathy

Barrett made a motion to approve the VOCA grant application and add the anticipated cost at approximately \$1,500, seconded by Mike Audy. 4 yes / 0 no

- 5. Adoption of the zoning & Subdivision bylaws:** Marie Jewett made a motion to adopt the combined zoning and subdivision bylaws, with minor changes, ie correcting a typo concerning the road frontage in the RA-2 district and renumbering the index. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. The Board greatly appreciates the work done by Peggy Connor and the Planning Commission. 4 yes / 0 no

VISITORS BUSINESS: None

UPDATES ON:

1. Roads given by Road Commissioner Bruce Many:

- Using lots of gravel when grading the roads, almost all the roads needed it.
- The Western Star is back in the shop, the DEF pump failed.
- Getting quotes for the addition on the town garage.
- **Dog Team Bridge:** Mike Audy is going to go through some of the files the town has and connect with Jim Cota from VTrans on what information he needs to assess the bridge. Mike would like to invite Jim to a Selectboard meeting to discuss the aging bridge. Bruce Many is going to reach out to Cindy Hill re: reducing the weight limit on the bridge and how to enforce no Ag vehicles using it. Kathy Barrett suggested creating a bridge ordinance. Bruce will ask Cindy about that as well.

2. Town Buildings and Land: Nothing new to report

AUTHORIZATIONS:

1. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 3/23/24, in the amount of \$6,903.40, seconded by Bruce Many. 4 yes / 0 no
2. Bruce Many made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 3/30/24, in the amount of \$5,564.61, seconded by Mike Audy. 4 yes / 0 no
3. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 4/2/24, in the amount of \$17,525.83, seconded by Bruce Many. 4yes / 0 no
4. Kathy Barrett made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the February Financials and Bank Statements. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 4 yes / 0 no
5. **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** – Form Committee for the Grant RFP and to work with the consultant on the project. The Committee will be made up of Emergency Management, Road Commissioner, Road Foreman, Town Clerk, and Spencer Chumbley who reached out to the Emergency Management Director to express

his interest. Pam Kingman will connect with Becky Hutchins and Marie Jewett – from Emergency Management to go over the RFP to hire a consultant who will help with the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

6. **GMP Upgrade to 46k V line 60 that runs from Salisbury to New Haven.** All residents and abutters have been notified. Town Attorney, Cindy Hill is asking if the Selectboard has concerns about the upgrade. Maggie Eaton came to the meeting for this agenda item. She is happy that GMP is finally upgrading a line, she has been lobbying to get GMP to upgrade for a few years. She is hoping the Selectboard endorses the upgrade. She showed the Board a local GMP 2.0 map that depicts what lines are open in our area, however most of them are red, meaning there is no more room available on those lines. There have been 4 solar projects that could not be done due to the lack of open lines. She said GMP is slow to upgrade because the Public Utility Commission (PUC) who approves rate increases is reluctant to increase the rates, which in turn falls on the customers. She feels we have an obligation to the state and town to abide by the energy plan the state has put forth; and solar, heat pumps and geothermal are the best options. Kathy Barrett made a motion to endorse the 46k V line 60, seconded by Marie Jewett. 4 yes / 0 no Kathy Barrett made a motion authorizing Cindy Hill to put in an appearance on behalf of the Selectboard in regard to the 46k V line 60. Motion seconded by Marie Jewett. 4 yes / 0 no Maggie Eaton is also the Towns Energy Coordinator and is willing to work alongside our Town attorney if she is called upon.
7. **Hire outside attorney:** Delinquent Tax Collector, Danielle Hubbell would like to hire Deppman Law to help with a bankruptcy file and future tax sales. Kathy Barrett made a motion to authorize Danielle to hire Deppman Law to help with delinquent tax issues. Motion seconded by Mike Audy. 4 yes / 0 no
8. **Liquor / Tobacco License:** Mike Audy made a motion to approve the Second-Class Liquor License and Tobacco License for RHJA, Inc d/b/a Village Green Market. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 4 yes / 0 no
9. **Personnel Policy:** Kathy Barrett will be meeting with Cindy Hill to update the Personnel Policy. Kathy would like to add the Juneteenth holiday, update the health insurance employee contribution and the .44% childcare contribution, which she would like the town to pay the employees share because it is so little.
10. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes from March 19, 2024, seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 1 abstention (Jewett)

Adjourn: 7:53 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved on 4/23/24

Marie Jewett
Vice Chair, Marie Jewett

Mike Audy
Mike Audy

Kathy Barrett
Kathy Barrett

Bruce Many
Bruce Many