

Town of New Haven Special Selectboard Meeting
7:00 pm
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
Town Offices

**** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held via GoToMeeting****

Selectboard: Chair, Steve Dupoise, Vice Chair, Kathy Barrett, Taborri Bruhl, John Roleau and Jim Walsh

Town Administrator / ZA: Aaron Brown
Treasurer, Danielle Cummings

Visitors: Scott Reiss, Ric Santa Maria, Tim Bouton, Harvey Smith, Linda Reiss, Susan Smiley and Amanda Bodell

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. **Scott Reiss and Ric Santa Maria from Roundtree Construction re: Train Depot in the Junction.** The Agency of Transportation (AOT) and the Vermont Railroad have informed Roundtree Construction that the Depot needs to either be removed from its current location or destroyed. AOT granted Historic Preservation a lease for the past 30 years for the Depot to sit on. Santa Maria said there is room on the site to push the Depot back approximately 14 feet, and he feels he and Reiss are capable moving the building. The Depot has been in the Junction since 1852; no other building has been in here that long or has the history this does. Santa Maria and Reiss feel the RR should not determine where the Depot is. They also don't see why the lease from AOT should change. Santa Marie has spoken with Historic Preservation; there is a right of way through the property for the RR, moving the building would still allow for the ROW. However, AOT said they won't lease the land that sits 14 feet away to house the Depot. State Representative, Harvey Smith said he was very surprised when he heard what AOT and the RR want to do, and they are only giving them until June 2021 to do it. Smith said the history with the Depot goes back to the Civil War; soldiers boarded the train at the Depot on their way to war. Steve Dupoise asked Harvey to facilitate a meeting between Roundtree Construction and AOT. Harvey agreed, and would like to include the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. All of this is because of Amtrak coming through the state at a

higher rate of speed. There was discussion about whether AOT and the RR will insist every depot be moved along the tracks. Steve Dupoise offered to reach out to Governor Scott; Santa Maria and Reiss both expressed their appreciation. Steve offered to take the lead on this for the Selectboard. Susan Smiley suggested getting in touch with Diane Lanpher, the new chair of the House Transportation Committee. Susan is willing to gather historical stories connected to the Depot, reminding AOT and the RR what the life of the Depot was like. Steve will let the rest of the Board know when the meeting with AOT, ACRPC and Rep. Harvey Smith will be. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to appoint Steve Dupoise as point person for the Depot, seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT given by Aaron Brown

1. **COVID-19 Response:** Aaron asked Harvey Smith if he knew if the state was considering moving Road Crews and Firefighters up an on list for COVID vaccination. Harvey wasn't sure. It was suggested Aaron contact the VT Dept. of Health to see what they say.
2. **Road Update:** Aaron has added diesel treatment to the portable generator.
3. **Town Buildings and Land:** The quote came in for the ADA Accessibility at the Town Hall, but it came in after the New Year. Last year the voters authorized \$30k to be taken out of the facilities reserve fund for dehumidification and only spent \$8k. Discuss improvements to the Town Hall and an ADA accessibility grant which would supply 75% of the money. Kathy Barrett said last year it was an article on the Town Meeting Warning, the money wasn't budgeted for, it would have come from the Reserve Facilities Fund to cover the expenses. Discuss adding another article to the upcoming Town Meeting Warning for repairs to Town Hall.
4. **Amanda Bodell** joined the meeting. She was hoping to join the conversation about the Train Depot, but joined the meeting too late. She offered any help the Board needed to help save the Depot.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

1. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 12/19/20, in the amount of \$4,467.68, seconded by Kathy Barrett Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
2. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 12/26/20, in the amount of \$5,286.32 seconded by Taborri Bruhl Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
3. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 12/31/20, in the amount of \$894.08, seconded by Kathy Barrett Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
4. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/2/21 in the amount of \$4,312.48, seconded by Taborri Bruhl Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

5. John Roleau made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/9/21, in the amount of \$4,171.87, seconded by Kathy Barrett Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
6. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 12/30/20, in the amount of \$45,776.18, seconded by Taborri Bruhl vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
7. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 1/11/21, in the amount of \$37,965.18, seconded by Kathy Barrett Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
8. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the Road Fund budget; amount to be appropriated for 2021 is \$705,249.09. Motion seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
9. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the General Fund budget; amount to be appropriated for 2021 is \$399,461.45. Motion seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
10. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the Certificate of Highway Miles for 2021, seconded by John Roleau Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
11. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/15/20, seconded by Kathy Barrett Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
12. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/17/20, seconded by John Roleau vote by roll call 4 yes / 1 abstention (Walsh)

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Addison County Hunger Council: Zoom meeting on 1/19/21 - defer
2. ACRPC Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement for Public Works Depts. – defer until we have more information
3. Personnel Policy - defer

Adjourn: 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved on 1-19-21

Chair, Steve Dupoise


Taborri Bruhl


John Roleau



Vice Chair, Kathy Barrett

Jim Walsh

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