

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting

6:30 pm

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Town Offices

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

Town Administrator / ZA: Aaron Brown

Selectboard Assistant: Pam Kingman

Visitors: Adam Lougee

**** Note:** a few Selectboard members had connection issues during the meeting, therefore, some motions only contain 4 votes**

VISITORS BUSINESS:

- 1. Adam Lougee from Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) re: Addison County Communications Utility District:** Adam has been working closely with Jim Walsh on this project; getting broadband to Addison County customers. One month ago Adam submitted a grant for a broadband feasibility study to find where it will reach the most people who need it. They are trying to encompass as many people in Addison County as possible. Adam is currently looking into an additional grant that will help establish broadband in our area. He mentioned there may be CARES ACT monies that will also help, with maybe a grant or bond to do it. Last week Gov. Scott said during this State of Emergency, the need to go to a town vote for approval is waived. Last evening the towns of Monkton and Leicester signed up, and Adam will be presenting this to the Ferrisburgh Selectboard tonight. Taborri Bruhl asked Jim Walsh if he'd be willing to be the point person for this, Jim agreed. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the Broadband Resolution and to appoint Jim Walsh as the point person on this project. Motion second by Steve Dupoise. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 1 abstention (Roleau) The Board thanked Adam Lougee

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Jeffrey News' "driveway access" on Dog Team Road / Generator discussion / Car charger update for next meeting / Line of credit

1. **Dave Whitcomb from Champlain Valley Plumbing & Heating re: Town Garage / Fire Station Heating Proposal Review.** Dave Whitcomb was not available for tonight's meeting; Aaron Brown reviewed the email he had received from Whitcomb, explaining the difference in the original quote to the latest quote. Whitcomb felt 2 furnaces in both the town garage and fire station would perform better and having 2 there would always be a backup. In both garages, these natural gas fired furnaces will be ceiling mounted, allowing more work space for the road crew and fire fighters. The heat pump is solely for upstairs in the fire dept.'s meeting room, this room can get extremely hot in the summer months. The heat pump will provide A/C in summer months and minor heat support in the winter. That is where the Rennai space heater comes in for the fire dept. meeting room; along with the heat pump, the Rennai will provide the heat to the upstairs space.
 Taborri Bruhl made a motion to accept the bid from Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$29,300.00. Motion seconded by John Roleau. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 1 abstention (Barrett – because she is related to Whitcomb) The Board discussed the rebates that would be available from efficiency Vermont. Aaron will have this information for the next meeting.
 2. **Susan Smiley – Riverside Cemetery Fence. Susan was not available to attend.** Aaron Brown reported Susan had spoken to the company that painted the Mills Church; they are interested in the fence project. Lanny Smith said he would not recommend painting the fence, with today's environmentally friendly paint, they just don't hold up. He said you spend more money over time trying to keep up with the paint or stain. Lanny suggested going with a composite material at least along the road front and a wood product on the other 3 sides. Composite is extremely expensive, but it holds up over time. Aaron will add language to the RFP to include composite material; he will send the RFP's directly to fencing companies. He may not get responses by the next meeting.
- **Roadside Mower:** John Roleau has been searching for a roadside mower for the town to purchase for several months. He found one on Champlain Valley Equipment's website; it was located in St. Albans. The salesman agreed to deliver it to the town garage for the road crew to test it out. It is considerably more money than we had budgeted for. John said the 4WD Kubota tractor comes with an Alamo boom mower which has 2 heads. The boom can reach over guard rails and can also cut saplings. It is a one owner machine and was well taken care of. The road crew is very happy with the tractor and mower, finding it easy to use. The issue is how to pay for it, we budgeted \$15k; the salesman suggested getting a loan for 24 months, and 20% down. We make 2 annual payments that come with a 5.5% interest. In the long run, having our road crew

do the roadside mowing will save the town money. The crew can use it to cut saplings as well, cutting down on the time to cut brush and chip it. Discussed the best way to purchase the tractor and mower. All agree to ask Treasurer, Danielle Cummings to look into our best option.

Taborri Bruhl made a motion to purchase the tractor and mower, and ask the Treasurer to find the best way to finance it. Motion seconded by John Roleau. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 1 abstention (Walsh)

- **Solar Development Updates:** Namaste Solar has pulled their proposal for the Sawyers' property for this year; they may try for next year. The lines are committed in that area. All the trees planted by the Peck array on Field Days road have died – again.
- **Summer Maintenance and Bike Planning:** Paving on Plank Road should take place very soon. Once it has been paved, it would be a good time to consider adding a bike lane when doing the road striping.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Given by Aaron Brown:

1. **COVID-19 Response:** There have been no changes to town office operations; we continue to have about the same number of people coming making appointments. However, more people are showing up without an appointment. Board meetings will continue to be remote; we have renewed GoToMeeting at a reduced rate for 18 months. Aaron thinks this would be a good option to keep, as it allows the public access to the meetings, as well as board members who cannot attend in person.
2. **Road Update:**
 - The Southern end of Pearson Road will remain closed through Wednesday morning while the Road Crew finishes up replacing the cross culverts.
 - Chris LaPete will continue work on Plank Road later this week, and then Pike Industries will grind it and then pave it.
 - Road Foreman, Tim Rich has asked permission to proceed with the culvert replacement on Hunt Road. It appears the State Class 2 town highway grants will be delayed this year, making it difficult to secure funds. Currently we have used \$5k out of the \$30k budget for culverts and guard rails. The culverts seem more of a priority over guard rails on LeDuc Cross Road. Traffic volume is much higher on Hunt compared to LeDuc.
Steve Dupoise made a motion to allow Tim Rich to go ahead and do the culvert replacement on Hunt Road. Motion seconded by John Roleau. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

- Complaint from resident on East Street who would like a deduction in taxes because the entrance to East St off Route 17 is rough. No action taken
- Road Foreman, Tim Rich has mentioned several of our intersections are non-compliant because they are lacking a “stop bar” on the road. This piece of equipment will have to be budgeted for next year; Tim will need to get the specs to the Selectboard for budget time.

3. **Town Buildings and Land:**

- Town Hall humidity levels continue to be in the low 50's; the rented dehumidifier is working nicely. Both smaller dehumidifiers need to be emptied daily.
- The gym floors are being refinished this week, and will probably be done on Monday, July 13, 2020.
- Tourterelle Inn & Restaurant used the Town Hall kitchen dishwasher after hosting a wedding on Friday night. The cleanup was superb; you can't even tell they were there.
- Natural Gas will be connected to the Town Garage / Fire Station the week of July 20, 2020.
- The portable generator is now being test-run every other week. Aaron thanked Jim Walsh for showing him how to operate it. Discuss the need for several people in town know how to set up and operate the generator before an actual emergency happens. Taborri will contact Dean Gilmore and ask for his assistance. Jim Walsh added we have no contract for generator maintenance this year, and he is not willing to look into it. Possibly the Road Crew could do the maintenance.
- The annual insurance inspection of the Town owned buildings happened last week. Two things to note: 1) The Town Offices Library building was never sprinkled. 2) In Town Hall, one of the fire detectors is hanging from the ceiling. Not sure who can fix this; it will need a very tall ladder.

4. **Cemetery Projects: West Cemetery** – Jim Walsh had numerous photos of the cemetery. Showing some heads stones that toppled over during the winter months, as well as the vegetation the road crew has been able to cut. Jim said the road crew has only cleared about 1/8 of the vegetation. The rest of the Board agreed the road crew has enough to do the rest of this summer, and would rather have Cleggs Memorials to have the headstones repaired.

5. **Jeffery & Alice News' “driveway access” on Dog Team Road.** Taborri Bruhl said after reading all of the correspondence to the News, he doesn't feel we can go back and make them remove it. In one of the letters to the News from the Selectboard it states that it doesn't have to be removed but that the Selectboard /

Town don't recognize it as a driveway. This topic has been discussed for months, and the Board is somewhat conflicted with it. They all agree the News cannot further improve it. Steve Dupoise will reach out to Attorney Hill and ask her to compose another letter to the News.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

1. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 6/20/20, in the amount of \$4,247.52, seconded by John Roleau Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
2. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 6/27/20, in the amount of \$4,647.02, seconded by Taborri Bruhl Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
3. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the payroll for the week ending 7/4/20, in the amount of \$4,160.54, seconded by Kathy Barrett Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
4. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve pay orders for the week ending 7/7/20, in the amount of \$47,059.98, seconded by Kathy Barrett. Discussion about the electric bills and why there are so many, but they are all marked for June. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
5. Town Hall Applications: **1)** Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve Tourterelle Restaurant and Inn to use the Town Hall kitchen dishwasher for all their events for the remainder of 2020. No fee or deposit required due to the recent fire at Tourterelle. Motion seconded by John Roleau Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
2) Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the New Haven Congregational Church use of the Gazebo and Town Green for Sunday Services for the summer 2020. Motion seconded by Taborri Bruhl Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
6. **Town Hall Bids:** There are still no bids for the Town Hall porch roof and gutters or for the dehumidification system. Aaron asked the Board if they are comfortable foregoing the sealed bids and using a single contractor to get these projects done. The Board agreed, these projects need to get done.
7. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve Chucks Heating and Air Conditioning to repair both Geothermal pumps in the amount of \$1,352.00. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
8. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the minutes from June 16, 2020, seconded by Kathy Barrett. Jim Walsh made an amendment to the motion to include his edits. There was no second to the motion. Jim Walsh left the meeting at this time. Vote by roll call 3 yes / 1 abstention (Roleau)

The Regular meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm

Taborri Bruhl made a motion to go into executive session at 8:32 pm to discuss personnel, motion seconded by John Roleau Vote by roll call 4 yes / 0 no

Taborri Bruh made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:10 pm, seconded by John Roleau Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Taborri Bruhl made a motion to raise Aaron Brown's compensation as Town Administrator and Zoning Administrator, effective for the current pay period through the end of 2020, by 5%. Motion seconded by John Roleau. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no Brown's salary will be re-evaluated again during the budgeting process for 2021.

MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:

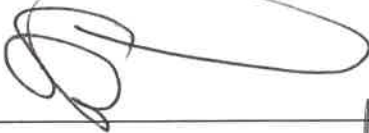
- 1. Sheriff's Activity logs

Adjourn: 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved on 7-21-20



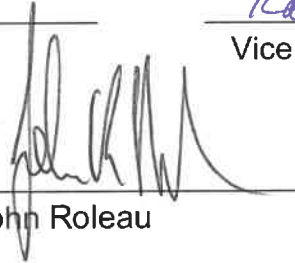
Chair, Steve Dupoise



Vice Chair, Kathy Barrett



Taborri Bruhl



John Roleau



Jim Walsh