

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting
7:00 pm
Tuesday, September 21, 2021
Town Offices

Selectboard: Vice Chair, Taborri Bruhl (remote), Kathy Barrett, Steve Dupoise and Bruce Many

Town Administrator / ZA: Aaron Brown

Selectboard Assistant: Pam Kingman

Absent: John Roleau

Visitors: Kim Callahan, Sally Ober, Adam Lougee, Nick Charyk, Joe Segale and Cindy Hill

Due to some technical glitches – the meeting didn't start until 7:30pm

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: Aaron's Benefits / Road Access Permit / Letter from Treasurer

VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. **Kim Callahan** came to talk to the Selectboard about holding a community gathering to discuss what is going on within MAUSD as well as input on the future of Beeman Elementary. Kim would like to hold the event outside between Beeman and the Town Hall on Sunday, October 10, 2021 from 4:00 – 5:30pm. In case of inclement weather, she asked for permission to use the Town Hall gym. Kim and a group of other New Haven residents will conduct the meeting, and are really looking forward to hearing from New Haven residents about the latest proposals from MAUSD and Beeman. Kim said it would be great to have some Selectboard members at the community gathering.

Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the Town Hall application for Kim Callahan to hold a community gathering in the Town Hall gym if there is inclement weather on Sunday, October 10, 2021 from 4 – 5:30 pm. Fee waived. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. Roll call 4 yes / 0 no

2. **Adam Lougee from ACRPC along with Nick Charyk from who represents WSP, and Joe Segale from VTRANS.** They came to let the Selectboard they are opening up a study for an alternate truck Route to divert truck traffic from downtown Vergennes. The study is expected to last for 2.5 years. Back in 2019,

they had looked at Route 17, coming into the New Haven Junction, and at that time the Selectboard wrote a letter saying they do not want them to consider that route. Segale said they are going to revisit every scenario from 2 years ago, and systematically eliminate the ones that won't work. The study will include stakeholder outreach, and more public involvement. He acknowledged the concerns about more traffic on Route 17 coming into the junction.

Nick Charyk did a power point presentation; he said the study will be overseen by VTRANS and ACRPC. Also involved will be New Haven Transportation Committee Member Mike Audy and State Rep., Harvey Smith. There will be a Public Meeting at the Vergennes Opera House on Thursday, November 4, 2021 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Discussed why a bypass around Vergennes makes sense; it would add another bridge over Otter Creek. More information can be found at www.vergennespel.com

**** Taborri Bruhl left the meeting at 7:45 pm****

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT given by Aaron Brown:

1. Road Update:

- The RFP for culvert capping on Town Hill Road has been sent to Pike Industries to quote a price.
- The Backhoe needs work: hydraulic hoses / cylinders and seals
- Started fall roadside mowing
- Road Access Permit: Jeannie Greene would like to install a 50' culvert to make it easier to mow her property on Hunt Road; she doesn't want to mow in to the ditch. Road Foreman, Tim Rich has advised against issuing this permit as it would have to be maintained by the Town and it is not for access to her property. Kathy Barrett made a motion to deny the Road Access Permit for Jeannie Greene, seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 0 no

2. Town Buildings and Land:

- **Humidity Sensor in Town Hall:** The Board agreed to raise the humidity sensor level by 10 percent.
- **Environmental Study for Town Hall façade:** Aaron admitted he has not followed up on this.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:

1. **Letter for Treasurer:** Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve and sign the letter Treasurer Danielle Hubbell wrote to the National Bank of Middlebury requesting the removal of former Treasurer, Barb Torian as an authorized signer of accounts. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 0 no

2. **Corporate Resolution for Treasurer:** Bruce Many made a motion to approve the Corporate Authorization Resolution. Motion seconded by Steve Dupoise. 3 yes / 0 no
3. **Aaron Brown's Benefits:** Aaron has indicated he will work until October 15, 2021. The Board set the following expectations:
 - Must work 30 hours per week until October 15 to qualify for benefits.
 - Make realistic hours to work in the office.
 - Post his hours on his office door so people know when he will be in the office.
 - There will be no more working remotely. This means starting to tell people to not call his cell phone and communicate via the office phone. He can answer all emails while working in the office.
 - There is still a job to be done, and expectations to be met.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

1. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 9/11/21, in the amount of \$3,832.04, seconded by Bruce Many 3 yes / 0 no
2. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 9/18/21, in the amount of \$3,476.45., seconded by Bruce Many 3 yes / 0 no
3. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 9/21/21, in the amount of \$70,209.57, seconded by Bruce Many 3 yes / 0 no
4. Kathy Barrett made a motion to acknowledge receipt of budget accounts and bank statements. Motion seconded by Steve Dupoise. 3 yes / 0 no
5. Defer the minutes from 9/7/21 – to correct minor typos
6. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the Personnel Policy as presented, seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 0 no
7. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the permit to move the train depot from the junction to North St., fee waived. Seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 0 no
8. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the Zoning Permit application for the Train Depot, by Steve Dupoise on behalf of the Selectboard. Fee waived. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 0 no
9. Kathy Barrett made a motion to authorize Steve Dupoise to ask the State (VTRANS) to waive the fee for moving the train depot over state highways. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 0 no
10. Kathy Barrett made a motion to sign the Agreement with Green Mountain Engineering for the waste water design for the train depot when it is relocated to North St. Cost for the design is \$3,500. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 0 no

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Train Depot Update given by Steve Dupoise:

- The move is expected to take 2 days
- Need 90 day notice to VELCO for them to alert customers of possible power outage.
- VELCO will need to shut down power to the westerly line, while the depot is then moved and possibly left on Route 17 overnight in between the two VELCO lines. Then VELCO can restore power to that westerly line and cut power to the easterly line in order to allow us to continue moving the depot up Route 17 to North St.
- North Street will present more challenges with trees, power lines, mailboxes, street signs, etc.
- The first move date is expected to take place on December 16, 2021.

Kathy Barrett made a motion to go into executive session at 9:04 pm for Attorney-Client privilege. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 0 no

Steve Dupoise made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:15pm, seconded by Kathy Barrett. 3 yes / 0 no

Steve Dupoise made a motion to have Attorney, Cindy Hill draft a letter to the Jewell's and Mayer's to begin the 30 day notice, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1061 to convey the land at the corner of Sawyer Road and East Street. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 3 yes / 0 no

Adjourn: 9:16 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved on 10-5-21



Kathy Barrett

Steve Dupoise



Bruce Many

