

Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2020 Regular Meeting

Present:

Maureen Bell, Selectwoman	Peter Chamberlain, Selectman
Kord Scott, Selectman	Dawn Bower, Various Commissions
Pat Cherry	David Cherry, Citizens Advisory Committee
Joyce Cumming, Selectboard Clerk	Russ Cumming, Lister
Bill Dunkel, Town Planning Commission	Leila Ehrhardt (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)
Ernie Friedli (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)	Sally Hoover, Auditor
John Hoover, Library Trustee, Justice of Peace	Tom Johnson, Energy Commission
Louise Johnson, Meetinghouse Committee	Kathy Jungermann, Auditor
Kathy Scott, Treasurer	Peter Cobb, LVRS
Judy Cobb, LVRS	

Call to Order

Maureen called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Additions to Agenda/Announcements/Reminders

Maureen noted the need to add discussion with Dave Cherry regarding Communication Union Districts (CUDs) as part of the Windham Regional Commission Broadband Project discussed at the last meeting. This item was added under old business.

Act on minutes: February 3, 2020 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Motion: To accept the minutes of the February 3, 2020 Regular Selectboard Meeting as submitted—moved by Maureen—all in favor.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

New Business:

Begin Maintenance & Improvement (M&I) budget planning for Town Buildings

Kathy Scott reported there is \$15,000 available at present for Town Office projects, and \$84,431 for Garage projects.

Painting bids will be solicited. Peter drafted paint bid specs [(1) town office and (2) garage] for review by the Selectboard (see attached). Discussion will follow at the next meeting.

Kord reported that Farnum Insulation quoted a price to insulate the floor at the town office some time ago. Discussion followed on resistance to using spray foam insulation due to possible health hazards. Kord noted

that because the building utilizes a radiant heat system in the floor, spray foam should not be used on the tubing. Ideally, reflective materials should be placed under the radiant heating, followed by cellulose and netting to hold it in place. Dave Cherry commented on reflective materials used in the radiant heat system at his home. Tom Johnson noted that he had spray foam insulation installed at his home. Quotes will be solicited from Farnum Insulation as well as Vermont Spray Foam Insulation. Maureen suggested inviting the contractor(s) for a presentation on the insulation systems at the time of the quote.

Kord noted the need at the garage for a structure, i.e., a lean-to, to cover the loader and grader. The town incurred an expense last year of approximately \$2500 to resolve a frozen fuel issue. Kord suggested addressing the lean-to in tandem with moving the fuel tank and installing the containment system against the front wall of the garage. John Pozzi had quoted \$20,000 for the lean-to. Discussion followed on parking the loader and grader end-to-end vs. side-by-side. Kord also noted that the wall of the salt shed is bowed, likely due to the force placed on the wall when loading salt. Kurt has knowledge of State specs for walls and footers of structures such as salt sheds. Kord also noted some movement in the side wall on the fuel tank side due to heaving; the garage side is bowed as well. Peter tried to locate documentation in the vault but was unable to determine who poured the existing foundation. Kord will discuss the concrete work with Walter Woodruff who was on the Selectboard at the time of the construction and may be able to shed some light. Kord will also ask Pete Newton to look at it and possibly consult a structural engineer Pete Newton knows.

Voter Petition for 5-person Selectboard – set date for Special Election

Maureen noted that the petition for a 5-person Selectboard was re-submitted on January 27, 2020. The Selectboard has 60 days from receipt of the petition to respond by warning a special town meeting to be held 30 to 40 days thereafter. Maureen suggested keeping to the Tuesday format for the special town meeting which could be held on April 7, 14 or 21. Kathy Scott will check with the school to determine if any of those dates present conflicts. A meeting time of 6 p.m. was suggested. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Old Business:

Emerald Ash Borer – update on workshops

Maureen reported on a workshop she attended along with Ginny Crittenden at which they learned how to use software to inventory trees in town. The town must develop a plan to address the emerald ash borer issue. Trees in the right-of-way should be removed before they show signs of infestation. This pro-active approach is preferable because once infested, the trees are more likely to become brittle and respond erratically to removal. Maureen suggested having the Conservation Commission develop guidelines for the project; Ginny will discuss this with Alison Trowbridge. Russ suggested hiring a forester and harvesting the wood for fuel to cover the cost of the work. Maureen noted that teams of residents can be formed to conduct the inventory. Guilford and Vernon have been very pro-active in taking trees down before they get brittle. Utility companies are responsible for trees in the right-of-way of power lines; Green Mountain Power will develop its own plan. Kord suggested involving the Conservation Commission in continued discussions regarding invasive species and the effectiveness of roadside and spot mowing work. Maureen agreed to discuss this with Ginny and Alison.

Ambulance Service – continue the discussion

Following discussion at the last meeting, Peter looked into the costs of using Rescue Inc. for the town's emergency service needs. He spoke with Ellen at Rescue Inc. and determined that the number of households in town is determined by the census. According to the last census conducted in 2010, Windham had 419

households. At a fee of \$28.63 per household, it would cost \$11,995.97 per year for Windham to use Rescue Inc. This does not include the cost of subscription plans for residents (\$60 per year with insurance or \$120 per year without insurance).

Pete and Judy Cobb of Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS) were present to report on the accident Rachel Spengler referenced at the last meeting. Pete reported that a 911 call was received on November 30, 2019 at 11:07 a.m. of a 28 yr. old male on Chase Road who sustained injuries as a result of a chainsaw accident and tree falling on the victim. The call was toned at 11:08 a.m. and 3 members of LVRS responded to the call: Kevin got the call at 11:08 a.m.; Judy and Pete got the call at 11:09 a.m. The DHART (Dartmouth-Hitchcock) helicopter was requested at 11:09 a.m. It took approximately 15 minutes for the helicopter crew to gather and the pilot to check the weather before the helicopter took off at 11:22 a.m. Pete noted that this is normal procedure. A rescue truck staffed by 3 people left LVRS at 11:15; an ambulance with a staff of 3 left at 11:16 a.m. Both vehicles arrived on the scene at 11:31 a.m. Kevin was on scene at 11:23 a.m.; Judy and Pete arrived on scene at 11:24 a.m. A team of 8, including 1 person already present who was not known to Pete, tended to the patient who was situated approximately 100 yards in the woods. The patient sustained minimal blood loss and was treated for a major laceration of the lower leg. A collar and backboard were applied and the patient was carried to the ambulance at 11:46 a.m. A loose tourniquet was prepared but not applied. The DHART helicopter touched down at the landing zone (school) at 11:45 a.m. The patient was secured, an I.V. inserted, and vital signs taken by 11:54 a.m. Pete described the patient's condition as stable. The ambulance left the scene at 12:02 p.m. and arrived at the landing zone at 12:10 p.m. The DHART crew examined the patient before radioing ahead to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital with a trauma alert. The helicopter was airborne at 12:27 p.m.

Discussion followed on mutual aid arrangements between rescue squads and what would happen if a call was received when both the LVRS ambulance and rescue truck were already out on calls. Pete responded that LVRS has 2 paramedic ambulances and a rescue truck, and that mutual aid would be provided by another squad depending on the location of the incident. LVRS works closely with Stratton. Contrary to information presented by Rachel Spengler, Pete and Judy explained that mutual aid is not based on a list with Rescue Inc. at number 5 or 6 in sequence. If both vehicles are out, first responders are toned to report at 3 minutes. Maureen thanked Pete and Judy for the information and their service to the community.

David Cherry noted that he was not able to get response times from Rescue Inc. David referenced a Report to the Vermont Legislature by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee dated December 30, 2018 which includes ambulance response times by district for FY 2015-2018: District 11 (which includes LVRS) is en route 6 minutes from dispatch while District 13 (which includes Rescue Inc.) is en route 1.6 minutes from dispatch. David also shared a report on ambulance response times in a rural VT town prepared by UVM. Both reports will be posted on the Town website. David explained that response times in rural areas will always be longer than in urban areas. Vermont is second to Wyoming for the lowest population density in the U.S. Data on ambulance response times may be available from the State. It was also noted that ambulance services are only reimbursed if the patient requires transportation. David noted that training is available from LVRS. Sally Hoover commented on Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad's philosophy of "load and go" as compared to Rescue Inc. which will collect insurance information on site before transport is initiated.

Windham Regional Commission Broadband Project: Communication Union Districts (CUDs) (item added)

The Selectboard passed a resolution at the February 3, 2020 meeting to support the Windham Regional Commission Broadband Project. The Selectboard also appointed Dave Cherry as the primary contact person for Windham to work with the WRC on this initiative. David Cherry reported on efforts to form Communication Union Districts (CUDs) consisting of two or more towns who join together to create a business plan for providing

broadband to unserved areas. The plans will be submitted to companies interested in providing service to residents at monthly subscription rates. The cost for the installation of fiber optic lines will be financed by bonds. There is no cost to the Town and no liability in participating in the project. Any profits generated will go to the service provider. Residents may get the benefit of higher property values if hi-speed broadband is available. The next step in the process involves a survey consisting of 27 questions. The survey will be available online in the next few days. Information regarding where to access the survey will be shared; cards will be printed to distribute at Town Meeting; flyers can be sent home with students. A suggestion was made to include an article in the next issue of News and Notes. The deadline for return of the surveys is March 17 and a response rate of 25% or better is required. All residents are encouraged to complete the survey regardless of whatever level of service they currently receive. Following the survey, a feasibility study will be conducted. Business plans will require another 2 to 3 months to complete. The entire process is anticipated for completion by August.

The Meeting House:

Transition Update

Kord reported that Bob Fisher and Lexi Young are working on the transfer of the Meeting House. Documents are not yet ready but the process is anticipated to be completed by Town Meeting. Kord has also spoken with Pete Newton about reinvigorating fundraising efforts by the Friends of the Meeting House. Bob Fisher is assisting with renewal of the "Friends" 501(c)3 status.

Insurance

Kord announced that the Town assumed responsibility for insuring the Meeting House through PACIF effective February 15, 2020.

Roads:

General Update:

Kord confirmed that members of the Selectboard received the budget update on roads.

F550 Pricing

Kord has been getting prices from truck dealers for a cab and chassis to replace the F550. He met with the Ford representative as well as two body companies. One has provided a quote; a quote from the other company is expected shortly. Brief discussion followed on the possible benefits of an extended cab to provide extra space for equipment and/or workers at an extra charge of approximately \$2500.

Letter to Jamaica Selectboard re: partnering with us when we pave the southern part of Windham Hill Road

Kord suggested drafting a letter to Jamaica offering an opportunity to partner with us when the southern part of Windham Hill Road is paved. Peter agreed to draft a letter to Jamaica's Selectboard letting them know that Windham anticipates paving in the next couple of seasons. Brief discussion followed on the timeline for repaving. Kord reported a balance of \$5,000 in the paving account, which, along with the Town Meeting article (if approved), and a grant (if received), would allow for completion of the work this year or next.

Correspondence/Payroll/Bills:

Correspondence was reviewed, including a letter from Vermont Department of Health asking the Selectboard to recommend someone to serve as Town Health Officer for the next three years (attached) and correspondence from AmeriGas following its recent acquisition of Young's Propane (attached). Maureen will call AmeriGas. A credit card summary was also received from MasterCard. Payroll and bills were reviewed and approved as required.

Brief discussion followed on the schedule for upcoming webinars on un-paving and road work.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the regular Selectboard meeting at 7:03 p.m.—moved by Maureen—all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Cumming
Selectboard Clerk

Attachments:

- Town Office Paint Bid Specs
- Town Garage Paint Bid Specs
- Correspondence: (1) Letter from VT Dept. of Health and (2) Notice from AmeriGas