

Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2021 Regular Meeting

Present via Zoom:

Maureen Bell, Selectboard Chair  
George Dutton, Selectman  
Marcia Clinton, CAC  
Sally Hoover  
Tom Johnson, various positions  
Mike McLaine, Town Clerk  
Barbara Jean Quinn  
Eileen Widger, various positions  
Gail Wyman, Assistant Treasurer

Kord Scott, Selectman  
Dawn Bower, various positions  
Bill Dunkel, various positions  
Louise Johnson, Town MHC  
Kathy Jungermann, various positions  
Pat McLaine, Auditor  
Kathy Scott, Treasurer  
Tom Widger, Meeting House

**Call to Order:**

Maureen announced the meeting and called it to order at 5:32 PM

**Additions to Agenda/Announcements/Reminders**

There were none.

**Act on minutes from April 5 regular Selectboard Meeting:**

Motion: To accept the minutes of the April 19 regular Selectboard Meeting – moved by Maureen. All voted in favor.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the April 23 Emergency meeting with the date corrected – moved by Maureen. All voted in favor.

**Public Comment:**

Bill Dunkel reminded everyone that Windowdressers from Maine is back in operation for 2021-2022. They will provide training for measurement this summer and have people help out making the storm window inserts this fall. Price is \$30-50/window. Residents should let Bill Dunkel know if interested. He will also write an article for the Windham News & Notes (WN&N). The Energy Committee is trying to determine if there is enough interest to do the build here or to do this with other towns. We are looking into possibly working with Londonderry and Wardsboro. Vance noted that the link to Windowdressers is on the website.

**Correspondence:**

There were 3 paving contracts and 1 overweight permit for Kord to look at (he might have seen that already).

**New Business:**

**Construction update – Route 11 Londonderry-Chester**

VTrans will start work again today on Route 11 between Londonderry and Chester – drainage and cleaning up ditches. There may be traffic stoppages.

**Green Mountain Power – Emerald Ash Borer**

Kord spoke with (and Maureen happened to run into) Alan Serano from Green Mountain Power (GMP) who explained what they're doing to remove affected ash trees. Ellen will put an article

in WN&N describing the process. So far, 521 trees have been identified along the GMP rights of way in Windham and 100 trees have already been taken down. GMP expects to be in Town, both on- and off-road through July. They will approach landowners for permission. Some of the trees are already affected, but some are not. Maureen indicated that once an area is infected, less than 10% of the trees will escape infection. Trees become brittle and are unclimbable, which is why there is preemptive action to take down roadside trees. Windham is within a 5-mile radius (or is it 10?) of the confirmed infested area established in 2018. Residents are encouraged to talk with GMP about this initiative.

### **The Meeting House:**

#### **Report on outside work being done – thanks to Tom W., Pete N. and Richard**

The gentlemen have been working hard. They have dismantled the back deck and disposed of most of the materials. Tom cleaned out the shed; Richard is going to move it so they can properly grade the area. Work will continue on the building, slowly. The Town Meeting House Committee is going to meet next Thursday, May 13 at 5PM. Pete is going to speak with the Fire Safety people about the swing of the front doors.

### **Roads:**

#### **Review paving bid results and engineer's recommendations – award if appropriate**

The bids arrived on Friday. Kathy S. and Kathy J. were there to open, scan and send them to Everett Hammond, the project engineer, and the SB for review. Maureen prepared a table showing a summary of 3 bids (see attached). The bids are:

Bazin Brothers: \$215,392.00

Fuller Sand & Gravel: \$225,885.00

Sunapee Paving: \$220,541.00

There was an emergency meeting of the SB called on April 23 to discuss an aspect of the bid – to review quotes for taking the milling portion out of the Request for Proposal (RFP). It was unclear and unexplained to us at the time, but this idea was actually part of the proposal. The idea was for the milling company to bring in the equipment for the milling and a local trucker would haul the material (which has value to them) away at no cost. Maureen would now like to explore this but was told that the time for this has passed. The low bidder, Bazin Brothers, says they have a use for the millings. Everett is satisfied with the work that Bazin does and recommends we award the job to them. Kathy J. noted that we did not receive an insurance document from them with the bid; Maureen said that the RFP didn't require it to be part of the submission, but it would be required before starting the job. There is a slight change in the Bazin bid – they used 20,700 square yards instead of 21,300. If you correct for that, the bid is \$216,262.00.

Motion: To award the paving contract for \$216,262.00 to Bazin Brothers – moved by Kord. All in favor.

### **Rt 121 Culvert Project kick-off meeting report and discussion regarding Local Concerns Meeting**

Just to note, Maureen sat in and listened to the meeting but did not participate, because it wasn't warned. The meeting was attended by Kord, Margo Ghia, Windham Regional Commission and Project Manager, Peter Pochop, VTrans and Brent Rakowski, Otter Creek Engineering. The culvert on the gravel section of Route 121 is a multi-year project extending into the fall of 2023 and requires extensive planning. A "Local Concerns" meeting is needed (the first of several) so that people who might be affected can hear about the plans. In order to

keep the schedule on track, the meeting needs to take place quickly. The SB will host the meeting at the next regular SB meeting on May 17. The SB brainstormed ideas about how to contact residents. Suggestions were by phone, email, snail mail and signage. It was also suggested to contact the Londonderry and Grafton Selectboards and perhaps send a press release to The Chester Telegraph and The Vermont Journal. Outreach could invite questions that could be addressed at the zoom meeting. Kord will follow up with Brent and Margo for language for a press release. The meeting was good. The Town may be able to apply administrative costs, which could be substantial, to the grant. Kord has asked Peter for a list of allowable expenses.

The project itself will likely be a box culvert. It will be similar to, but much larger than the Burbee Pond culvert. Its style will be environmentally friendly and looks more like a bridge than a traditional culvert.

Gail asked about the timing – is the construction going to take place over the next few summers? Kord answered no – the construction will be in the summer of 2023. But over the next few years, there will be environmental studies done, easement issues, design, and preparation. A reminder that this is a Federal grant and therefore comes with lots of rules and regulations.

Travel impact will not happen until the last phase which is the actual construction.

**Payroll/Bills:**

Kathy and Gail sent them to the SB today. Maureen thought everything looked in order. George and Kord agreed.

Motion: To approve payroll and bill presented and authorize Kord to sign off on them – moved by Maureen. All voted in favor.

**Adjournment:**

Motion: To adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 6:22 PM – moved by Kord. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Bell  
Acting Selectboard Clerk (with another great, big assist from Pat McLaine)