

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2019

Draft

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Lynne Bertram, Chair.

Present: Norman (Nope) Martin, Brian Bontrager, Vicky Young and Nancy Robinson

Visitors: Hank Smith, Bruce Maxham, Collen Doyle, George & Melissa Spear, Steve Tarleton, Sr., Bruce Martin, Joni Kennedy, Del. Tax Collector and Christian Avard, VT Standard Reporter.

Additions to agenda: I-Cloud Backup for Vision Version 8 update, misc. correspondence from VTEL and TRORC.

Brian moved to accept the minutes of August 13, 2019 as written. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

Visitors: Collen Doyle asked about contacting the state to investigate the process of getting speed signs on each end of the village, getting cross walks in town and to see about changing the speed limit through the village. Since RT 4 is a state highway, any action taken would be on their part. Lynne asked Collen to get information.

George Spear reported that his building in the corners is still open for inspection if the board would like to take a look at it (Brian and Nope have seen bottom floor, have not been upstairs. Lynne has not seen visited the site yet). Although the building does not currently have a sewer system, there is a sleeve under RT 4 for a leech field across the road on William Young's property. W. Young is willing to discuss the use of his property. Current asking price for property and building is \$800,000.

Melissa Spear inquired about the town's conflict of interest policy, as she doesn't see one on the town website. The town has a policy, internal policies are not put onto the website. Nancy will follow up to check on status and requirement to update and adopt new policy.

At this time, new Road Foreman Jeff Sailer arrived and the board moved onto to Highway Department Report:

Jeff started on Monday, not much to report at this time other than the crew are grading roads. Worked on replacing hoses on the grader today and got grader back out on road. Eugene Westney is working through this week and then will be done. Donald Martin was done last Wednesday. Discussion of water test, came back negative for e-coli but positive for total coliform. Will put sign in bathroom to not drink water. Will get bottled water for consumption. Nancy has typed up a notice for use of fill/debris that will be put on the town website. Jeff will investigate electrical needs at the garage and will contact Tom Leonard to repair and/or replace as needed. Brian will look at shop door that needs to be replaced. Board ok'd use of town garage for "Logging Workshop" to be held in October. Town has received 2 employee applications. Board and Jeff will interview candidates on Wednesday, September 4th beginning at 5:00 pm.

Joni Kennedy, Del Tax Collector met with board to review the current delinquent tax and sewer accounts. Discussion of status of Old Mill Marketplace Owners Assoc. account. Past agreement arranged by the board to pay account in full in 45 days (by August 15th or tax sale proceedings would begin) was revisited and revised by Joni. New plan to pay \$20,000 on August 26th and then \$3,000 a month until account was paid in full did not materialize as payment received on August 26th was for \$10,000. Board recognizes that Joni is independently elected and can make payment arrangements, but the board had made prior arrangements that Joni changed without consulting or including them.

August 27, 2019 minutes cont.

Lynne moved to ask Joni to begin tax sale proceedings on the Old Mill Marketplace Owners Assoc. immediately. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously. Joni will contact Atty. Barlow to notify him of this action and to get the process started. Will hold off on tax sales of other delinquent tax and sewer accounts until after current year taxes are collected in November.

Treasurer's File: A current expense warrant #5 (e-ck #'s 18450-18462 and ck #'s 2469-2472) was reviewed and signed. Vicky discussed with the board the need to either purchase a computer server or I-Cloud program for the Lister's new Version 8 software update. Vicky had a quote for the I-Cloud program of \$2,500 annually. Brian moved that the Lister's purchase the I-Cloud system for \$2,500.00, funds to come from the Lister Reserve Account. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

Clerk's File: September calendar given to the board.

Old business: None

New business: Board reviewed the new drafted dog ordinance and approved proceeding with the ordinance adoption process. Notice from the Community Development Program of a condition that the town has to meet for the Planning Grant; a member of the selectboard or planning commission has to attend a fair housing training workshop. Brian will attend on behalf of the town.

Misc. correspondence from VTEL regarding fiber optic services and information that they can provide. Notice from TRORC of a public hearing for the Randolph Town Plan.

Vicky asked the board for clarification of benefits for the newly hired employees, policy says 30 days to get insurance, does this also include holiday pay as the two newly hired employees 30-day period will include the Labor Day holiday. Nope moved that after January 1, 2020, the 30-day wait period will include all insurances and fringe benefits (holiday, sick and personnel). Brian seconded the motion and motion carried.

Brian moved to enter into executive session at 6:00 pm to review and discuss employment applications per 1 V.S.A. 313 (3). Nope seconded the motion and motion carried. Board returned to open meeting at 6:25 pm. The following action was taken: Nancy will set up employee interviews to be held on Wednesday, September 4th beginning at 5:00 pm with the two perspective candidates.

Town will send thank you cards to Donald Martin and Eugene Westney for their willingness to help the town during the period without a road crew; which will include a stipend of \$200.00 for each.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson,
Clerk