

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONRES
MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2020

DRAFT

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

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

Visitors: Gloria Martin, Bruce Maxham, Hank Smith, Tony Hoisington, Ryan Townsend, Melissa Spear, George Spear and Sandy Sawyer. Allan Stein, VT Standard Reporter

Additions/changes to agenda: none

Brian moved and Nope seconded to accept the minutes of January 7, 2020, January 14, 2020 and January 21, 2020 as written. Motion carried.

Visitors: Tony Hoisington shared with the board that he is working on getting a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) to remove either his land or dwelling from the flood zone. Asked board if they had a preference as to what he removed. Lynne knows of the LOMA program and thought that dwellings are normally removed for insurance purposes. Tony is also working on getting the burned mobile home removed and is considering and getting information regarding putting another home on the same site with equal or less square footage. Working with a surveyor to get the E-LOMA and applying for town flood permits.

Listers: Vicky Young and Melissa Spear reported to the board information they had gathered related to automobile insurance coverage or lack thereof for town officials and employees. Began investigating for Lister coverage when doing spring assessing. Discovered that this affects all town elected and employed members who use their personal vehicles when doing work for the town. When and if using personal vehicle for work purposes, town's VLCT PACIF insurance will not cover if there is an accident and personal insurance will not cover as the travel is being done for work or business purposes. Vicky has spoken to several towns and insurance companies getting information and quotes. Has also spoken to town attorney who recommended that she bring this issue to the board's attention. Board will investigate further.

Board reviewed letter from Mike & Sandy Sawyer requested a decrease in sewer units due to change in building layout. Mike and Sandy have purchased the Goudreau apartment house which has been assessed with 4 living units and billed at 4 sewer units. House is being converted to 3 living units and are asking that the sewer assessment be lowered to 3 units. Lynne moved to decrease the billable sewer units from 4 to 3 to begin with the next quarterly assessment. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

Highway Report: Plowing and sanding, having weekend storms. Maple Valley Road is being kept open. Jeff presented quotes for a new truck to replace the 2014 Freightliner. Quotes from Freightliner and Western Star with a heavier front end. Quotes between \$193,000 to \$225,000 with trade in of approx. \$45,000. Trying to get heaviest truck for best price. Will put in town meeting warning an amount not to exceed \$190,000 to account for any unexpected items. Town borrows money to pay upfront for truck then makes annual payments from equipment sinking fund. 2019 truck is at garage for warranty work.

January 28, 2020 minutes cont.

Treasurer's File: Order sheet # 18 (ck #'s 2501-2502 and e-ck #'s 18656-18679) were reviewed and signed. Payroll order sheet (ck #'s 3889-3890 and e-ck #'s 3047-3068) was reviewed and signed.

Clerk's File: Liquor licenses were approved for Bridgewater Corner Store and The October Country Inn. An excess weight permit was approved for Newport Sand and Gravel. February calendar was given to the board. February board meetings will be on the 11th and 25th. Discussion of bond informational hearing which has to take place within 10 days of the date of vote. Will hold informational hearing on February 25th at 6:30 pm at the Grange Hall (with approval from Alice Paglia) following the Selectboard meeting. Selectboard will open hearing then Building Committee with present the information.

Old business: None

New Business: Board reviewed and signed the Simon Operating Services contract which will begin on July 1, 2020 and expire June 20, 2025.

Board reviewed the FY 20/21 General Account Budget of \$713,466 with an amount of \$353,465.03 to be raised in taxes and Highway Budget of \$554,300.00 with an amount of \$410,081.91 to be raised in taxes. Total combined budget is **\$1,267,766.00** with an amount to be raised in taxes of **\$763,546.94**. Increase from last year of 9.65%. Brian moved to adopt the FY 21 General Account and Highway Accounts budgets as presented. Nope seconded the motion. Discussion of Sheriff's budget and how to make sure that the town does not incur a deficit. Will keep budgeted number as is and will invite Sheriff Chamberlain to a meeting in the spring to discuss services.

Board also reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget of **\$88,660.00** with an amount to be raised by fees of **\$82,236.16**. Annual rate will remain the same at \$530.00 due to several new units. Nope move to adopt the Wastewater Treatment Plant budget as presented. Brian seconded the motion and motion carried.

2020 Town Meeting Warning was reviewed by the board. Town Meeting will be held at the Bridgewater Community Center Multi-Purpose room (village school building).

Board reviewed documents provided by Attorney Paul Giuliani regarding the bond vote of 1.8 million for the proposed new fire station. Lynne moved to approve and adopt the Resolution Certificate, Warning and Declaration of Official Intent for the bond vote. The bond vote will be held on March 3, 2020, polls will be open from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm. An informational meeting will be held on February 25, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Grange Hall. The Warning will be published in the Vermont Standard on February 13th, 20st, and 27th. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

Board members reviewed the Selectboard & Highway Report for inclusion in the Town Report. The reports were approved by all members.

Vicky asked the board for an executive session for personnel. Per 1. V.S.A. 3 (13) the board moved into executive session at 6:20 pm. Returned to open meeting at 6:30 pm. No action taken.

Being no further business, the motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson

Clerk