

**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER**  
**SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

**February 13, 2024**

**Present:** William O. Young-Chair, George Spear-Vice Chair, Stephen S. Tarleton – Road Commissioner, Melissa Spear-Treasurer, Nancy Robinson-Clerk, Victoria Young-Administrative Assistant/Lister

**Visitors:** Charlie Shackleton, Brian Bontrager & Michael Caduto – BACF, Cindy Ansardy, Gloria Martin, Greg Robinson, Owen Astbury, Bruce Maxham, & Victoria Reaser

**Zoom:** Diane Martin, Dennis & Joan Wideman

**Executive Session** – Personnel - Per 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(3) If needed. None

**Call to Order:** William called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

• **Additions/Changes to Agenda:**

- Minutes January 23, 2024
- Treasurer-FEMA Update, Budget Status Report & Balance Sheet

**BACF** – Solar exploration Update - Michael Caduto presented the Board with the Findings of the Solar exploration for the Community Center, Fire Station, and the Southgate House buildings. They have spent the last two weeks getting information. They also discussed with Green Mountain Power about battery backup systems. General discussion of where the solar panels would best fit the property- either on the roofs of the Fire Station and/or the Southgate House. The solar array would generate enough power with the help of battery backups for all three buildings to supply power in outages and emergencies for an indefinite time. Bruce asked about snow backing up on the panels-as the Fire Station roof was designed for the snow to stay on the roof (asphalt roof). The roof would need standing seam roofing put on the bottom 4' so that the snow would slide off and then would need to be removed from walkways and entrances. William suggested putting three ground based solar panels standing up toward the back of the field where he thinks that they would get better sun exposure. Michael agreed that it would work there too. Grants for the Solar would be used to fund this project – no expense to the town. The State Grant -*Sustainable Energy for Schools and Municipalities Program* - application needs to be in by the end of this month.

*William made a motion to move forward with the Grant Application process –seconded by George – motion passed.*

**Minutes:** January 30, 2024 & January 23, 2024

*William made a Motion to accept both Minutes as written, seconded by George –motion passed.*

**Highway Report:** Updates: Steve reported that the debris pile on River Road is almost gone, and that the Jenne Bridge project is moving along – cement has been poured for the walls.

- MTAP Contract-The Board reviewed the Statement of Work for the MTAP funding of \$53,735.55 which will cover the Dubois & King Engineering Design (\$33,184.64) and TRORPC Project Manager costs (\$20,568.91) for the new Salt Shed building. This Grant money will reimburse the town for these expenses already incurred.

*William made a Motion to Accept the Contract to pay for the remaining design work from DuBois & King, Engineer Designer and TRORPC, project manager services through MTAP (Municipal Technical Assistance Program) for the new Salt Shed building. Seconded by George – motion passed.*

#### **Treasurer's File:**

- AP Warrant #24-13 – E-Cks #2810-#2813 & A/P Cks #21082-#21115 Board reviewed & signed.
- Payroll –January 2024 - E-Cks #5124-#5131 & Cks #3886-#3912 Board reviewed & signed.
- FY 2023 Audit- Financial Reporting Package- Melissa explained the *Schedule of Prior Audit Findings FY 2023 & Corrective Action Plan for FY 2023*. These forms were signed by the Board and Melissa will send them to the Audit Firm and then we will receive our 2023 Final Audit copies. These forms will be included in the Final Audit.
- FEMA Update- Randy is helping with getting the information still needed for our FEMA claims. Melissa was contacted by Chris Hartnett from Jersey Recovery Associates, LLC – which is a Disaster Recovery company that assists towns with the FEMA processes. He would like to come and meet with us to discuss his services and if it would be a good match for us to get our FEMA projects into the system faster. The Board thought that this was a good idea – and Melissa will set up a meeting as soon as is possible. *William made a motion for Melissa to arrange a time to meet with Chris Hartnett with one Board member –Seconded by George – motion passed.*
- Melissa also gave the Board a current Budget Status Report and a Balance Sheet to review.

#### **Clerk's File:**

- Excess weight permit for Martin Exc. Signed by Board
- Excess weight permit for Markowski Exc. Signed by Board

**Lister Updates: Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending** - Vicky presented this annual Grand List form to be signed by the Board and the Listers – of no pending Appeals or Suits. Marsha had signed previously- Vicky and the Board signed. Vicky also updated that the Statistical Market Update process is in the works and will be starting soon.

**New Business: Discussion of Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) and options for potential property buyout(s). (Discussion of program and options.)** Nancy updated the Board of a property owner in West Bridgewater that is looking to apply for this buyout program. Their property did not sustain damage to their home, water, or sewer – but damage to their land only. Currently the State Fund for this program does not have much money –but are in hopes that the Legislature will address the need for more funding. Scott Jensen from ANR (Agency of Natural Resources) - has given them some ideas to mitigate future flooding problems. He is willing to meet with the owners at the site this Thursday to discuss what could possibly be done to help save them from going through the buyout process. William suggested that perhaps the town could take some of the material to use for the town - getting a permit from the State to work on the site and reestablish the channel. Just a thought. Nancy and William will meet at the site on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Old / Other Business:**

- **Ottauquechee Plumbing-Job Proposal-Southgate House-** the Board reviewed the Proposal.

*William made a Motion to accept Job Proposal from Ottauquechee Plumbing for replacement of cast iron septic pipes to pvc pipes in the Southgate House for the sum of \$1,282.61. Seconded by Steve. Motion passed. Ottauquechee Plumbing will be here on February 16, 2024, to do the job.*

- **Environmental Study/Findings of Town Clerk's Office** – Nancy reported that we have received Report/Findings of the air testing done recently. There is no mold. The carpet does need to be replaced and a vapor barrier put down before replacing the flooring. She did get a new humidifier that is helping. She has also contacted Home Depot and they can do the whole job – will send someone to come over and measure and look at the job. William made a motion to approve contacting Home Depot to give us a price for the job. Seconded by Steve – motion passed.

Next Meeting: February 27, 2024

**Visitors:** Victoria Reaser had a question of the old Fire Station – it was explained that the town does not own this building. Brian had a question about the size/style of the new salt shed. Joan Wideman had a question about the Ottauquechee Plumbing proposal.

**Adjourn:** William made a motion to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. – seconded by George –motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria Young

Administrative Assistant