

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

June 25, 2024

Location: 45 Southgate Loop – Selectboard Room

Present: William O. Young-Chair, Stephen S. Tarleton – Vice Chair, Road Commissioner, Owen Astbury – Board Member, Melissa Spear –Treasurer, Nancy Robinson-Clerk, Randy Kennedy – Road Foreman & Victoria Young-Administrative Assistant & Lister

Visitors: Don McNeil, Nope Martin, Steve Tarleton, Dennis Wideman, George Spear, Cindy Ansardy, Bruce Maxham, John Keough, Josh Maxham

Zoom: Joan Wideman, Diane Martin, AM, Lynn Bertram

Call to Order: William called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- ** Additions/Changes to Agenda: Solid Waste Permit-Cassella Waste, ATV Discussion

Minutes: June 11, 2024 - The Board reviewed and accepted as written.

Highway Report: Updates: Martin Machain quit on Monday morning. The job is posted on the Indeed website. Randy met with contractors for Dailey Hollow, Stevens, Baker Hill & Hale Hollow Road projects. Awaiting more bids. The highway crew has also been working on Blanchard RD – stone lining ditches for a Grant that we have for that road and will replace one culvert.

- **ACCESS PERMIT- Amelia Menke –TH #32 – Rogers Road** - The Board signed the Notice to Proceed with no added conditions or restrictions. Randy had viewed the placement of the new access.
- **Baker Hill Project-** Owen had looked at the Baker Hill section that would need to be brought up to Class 3 road specification. Some trees could stay – there is a lot of work that would need to be done – much more than what our town crew could do. Randy and Steve will do a site visit soon.
- **Green Mountain Power- North Bridgewater & Grandma Am’s Roads** - Randy reported that Green Mountain Power will be burying lines along Grandma Am’s RD & North Bridgewater RD. We are waiting for the Permits from GMP to do the work.
- **FEMA Update: Pearsons RD Box Culvert, Dailey Hollow RD, Stevens Rd, Cobb Hill RD, Baker Hill RD** - **Possible bids to be approved & reviewed.** Still waiting for bids. Melissa reported that we have submitted \$1.2 million into the FEMA portal with an expected \$905 k for us. We have not received any reimbursement yet but continue to submit projects into the Grants Portal.

Treasurer’s File:

- Expense Warrant #21 – E- Cks #2846-2850 & AP-Cks –21339-21346 – The Board reviewed & signed.
- Payroll Warrant –June 2024 –E-Cks #4005-4026 & Cks # 5164-5174 – The Board reviewed and signed.
- Tax Anticipation Note \$1,000,000.00- Melissa would like the Board to authorize her to borrow up to \$1 million Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) -for one-year – Interest rate of 6.5% for cash flow FY ‘25. She would also like the board to authorize William to sign the documents when they are ready. After

some discussion- William made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$1 million at 6.5% interest for a one-year TAN loan – seconded by Owen – motion passed. Steve made a motion for William to sign for the loan – seconded by Owen – the motion passed.

- Budget Status Report - Melissa reviewed the report with the Board.

Melissa contacted Cassella Waste about picking up the trash at the Rec Field weekly. Have not heard back from them yet.

Clerk's File:

- Liquor & Tobacco licenses for the Corners Store – William made a motion for the Clerk to process the Licenses on the State portal –seconded by Owen –motion passed.
- Legislative updates regarding dog license fees –As of January 1, 2025 –Dog licenses will increase to \$12.00 (prev. \$9.00) with the town retaining \$4.00 and the State getting \$8.00 (prev. \$5.00). The additional funds would flow towards the newly created Animal Welfare Fund. (see attached notice)
- Weapons at polling places and open meeting regulations. The new law takes effect July 1, 2024 (see attached) There will be a meeting in July for Town Clerks for training of security at polling places.
- Nancy also updated the Board of new laws beginning July 1, 2024 –regarding “VT’s Open Meeting Law”-requires all public bodies i.e -Selectboards, Lister Boards, Cemetery Commissioners and Planning Commissions. Does not include “advisory bodies –i.e -those that do not have supervision, control, or jurisdiction over legislative, quasi-judicial, tax, or budgetary matters – to meet electronically without a physical meeting location (i.e. remotely)” See attached memo. The Town may need separate Zoom accounts for each account. There will also be required training starting July 2025. Nancy is also setting up BCA (Board of Civil Authority) training prior to any BCA Hearings.

Lister Updates: Vicky reported that Lister Grievances went well, and that 38 Result of Grievance Notices went out in the mail today. People have 14 days to notify the Town Clerk if they wish to proceed to the BCA (Board of Civil Authority) level.

New Business:

- **Next Meeting July 09, 2024** – after discussion – the Board decided to have one meeting in July – due to conflicting schedules on the 16th and one meeting in August- due to the Primary vote on the 20th. Vicky will post the change.

Old / Other Business:

- **Rec Field Discussion-** Melissa met with some interested community members about possible upgrades/changes to the Rec Field. Katie Roberts asked for public comments on the Facebook Locals pages. Some of the suggestions were: keep the picnic area, a gazebo, replace the boat, swing set.

William suggested moving the swing sets out of the flood area. Melissa also reported that the field needs a lot of work – brush needs to be cut, the tennis court needs to be repaired (possibly under warranty), gate and signs need to be repaired/painted. There may be some grants available. We will get some FEMA reimbursement in-kind – they will replace “what was there.” There was also some discussion of the condition of the field- trimming and trash pick-up. There will be more discussion in the near future.

- **ATV Discussion-** William stated that there is possibly another petition out there about the ATV use of Stevens & Richardson roads that was amended on the ATV Policy that was signed at the last meeting. We will add ATV policy discussion to the next agenda on July 16th. General discussion ensued.

Visitors: Bruce (BVFD) The fire department has someone coming to work on motors- one small generator is owned by the town – would like approval to have the motor serviced – William said that if it were not too costly – it would be fine. Josh (BVFD) explained that when the new fire station was built- cuts were made on some things. One such cut was for a Nitrogen Sprinkler System for the attic. The current pipes have a short life span of about 2-5 years and there could be leaks in the pipes. The pipes for the nitrogen system would last for 50 years. Approximate cost of \$20-\$30 k. The fire Department has funding set aside of about \$100 k. They would like to use their funds for the new nitrogen sprinkler system and the paving that was previously planned – which would deplete the funds that were set aside. They would need town approval to do the jobs.

Adjourn: Being no further business - William made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. - seconded by Steve –motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young

Administrative Assistant