

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2019

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 (arrived later in meeting)

Visitors: Gloria Martin, Bruce Maxham, Hank Smith, Larry Kasden, Bruce Seely, Josh Maxham, Mary Oldenburg, George and Melissa Spear, Matthew Hough and Rep. Jim Harrison.
Allan Stein, VT Standard Reporter

Brian moved to accept the minutes of November 5, 2019 as presented. Lynne seconded the motion. Hank Smith asked that the sentence "Survey results indicated that the combined fire station and community room would be supported" be stricken from the record as the survey results as reported were not accurate. Discussion ensued. Brian moved and Lynne seconded to remove the sentence from the November 5th minutes. Motion carried to approve amended minutes.

Visitors: Representative Jim Harrison – Jim gave the board an overview of last year's legislative session. Upcoming issues in legislature such as Paid Family Leave, Minimum Wage increase, ACT 250 Reform, Climate Change, Marijuana tax and regulation in addition to the normal bills that have to get done (state budget, setting education property tax rates and transportation project budgets) Discussion of lack of community volunteers-state wide and need to find ways to attract. Discussion of State Police and what services towns get for their tax dollars.
Thanked board for meeting with him and to please let him know of any issues or concerns.

Hank Smith on behalf of the Bridgewater Area Community Foundation updated the board on the progress of the school building. Foundation will be applying for grant funding that will require matching funds, inquired as to the use of school reserve money. The town and school will both benefit from any infrastructure upgrades. No decision made at this time.

Bruce Seely and Josh Maxham came before the board seeking a decision on the proposed new fire station/community room. Presented the town with information and cost estimates of 2.2 million to build the combined building and 1.8 for the stand-alone fire station. Discussion ensued. Lynne asked board members for a vote, Brian and Lynne in favor of bonding for a fire station only. Nope in favor of combined building. Brian moved to moved forward with a bond vote of 1.8 million on the stand-alone fire station. Lynne seconded the motion. Motion carried 2 yes, 1 no. Committee will prepare informational presentation for stand-alone fire station to be held within the next few weeks. Selectboard will be required to hold at least one public meeting in February before bond vote.

Highway Report: Board reviewed a Loss Control Reported provided by VLCT Insurance regarding the town garage. Several electrical and safety issues were reported. Jeff and Nancy will work to resolve issues. The 2019-20 Snowmobile Policy was re-adopted on a motion made by Nope and seconded by Brian. Discussion of applying for a Better Roads Grant for Stormwater work. Jeff and Nancy will work with Pete at TRORC to put a grant together before the deadline of December 13th. Board approved Lynne signing grant application on behalf of the town before the next meeting. Jeff reported that the crew are plowing and sanding as weather warrants (most every day/night). 2014 truck has been to Osgood's to get sander chain replaced/repaired.

November 19, 2019 minutes cont.

Check engine light came on while traveling back to town garage. Contacted Sabil for tow, they were able to reset the light and truck is now back at town garage. Jeff will follow up tomorrow on engine issue.

Treasure's File: An expense warrant # 13 (ck #'s 18579-18598 and e-ck #'s 2488-2490) was reviewed and signed by the board. Paying taxes over to the school districts, state (one half payment) and local totaling \$2,195,481.00. Taxes were due on November 6th. Delinquent tax warrant has been given to Joni Kennedy, Del. Tax Collector.

Clerk's File: December calendar and meeting schedule confirmed. Only one meeting on December 17, 2019.

Old business: None

New business: Lynne attended a meeting last week with a representative from Division of Forests regarding a Forest Legacy Program grant application for the Chateauguay Forest. The program would like to acquire three parcels of land totaling 2,310 acres in Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington and Stockbridge. A letter of support for the grant application is needed from each town. Discussion of project and impact on town when and if removing land from the tax rolls. Towns may get some tax income from the PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) Program. Brian and Nope do not support this project and letter of support was not signed.

Lynne moved to enter into executive session per 1 V.S.A. 313 (3) to discuss personnel and legal issues at 6:35 pm with Nancy and Jeff in attendance. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried. Board returned to open meeting at 7:35 pm. Action taken: Nope moved to authorize Nancy to contact the Town Attorney and PACIF Insurance Company to seek legal counsel for potential litigation issue(s). Brian seconded the motion and motion carried.

Being no further business, motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson
Clerk