

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
November 18, 2021
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

Board Members Present Using Microsoft Teams: Eric Bach, Kellie Merrell, Kristin Franson and Peter Griffin

Board Members Present: Ken Linsley

Others Present Using Microsoft Teams: Sarah and Adele Stinson

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero, Wendy Somers, Keith Gadapee, Chris Kirk, Walter McNeil, Evangelyn Morse, Gregory Prior, Michael Hogue, Bill Baily, and Sandy Ladd

Meeting was called to order by Chair Ken Linsley at 6:00 pm.

1. **Additions to the agenda:**

- Michael Hogue – Status of Train Station and Funds
- Proclamation
- Basketball
- Resignation
- Village Improvement Society – Green Usage

2. *Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Eric Bach to approve **minutes** of the **Regular meeting of November 4, 2021** with various corrections: page 1, 1st paragraph add 'for the Town' and 'as an independent contractor', page 2, 2nd paragraph, delete 'group', change 'thing' to 'event', and 5th paragraph add 'and less expensive', and page 3, 2nd paragraph correct 'precedence' to 'precedent', section (c) correct 'MEKWMD' to 'NEKWMD'. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

3. **Visitor:**

- Walter McNeil – NEKWMD – 2022 budget passed. There is a 4.6% increase over previous year. A 3-4% pay increases was given to district employees. There is a decrease in surcharge to each town (was 94 cents, now 84 cents). There is an increase in tire fees for large tires such as farm equipment tires which will take effect January 1st. An RFP went out for totes for organics. The cost was \$13.50 but Cloud's Path Farm dropped the price to \$10 a tote if the totes are clean and free of material, however if they are not, then the price will revert back to \$13.50. Financials is in a deficit because of payment for bailer however, the recycling market is still very strong. The District and Town of Lyndon have reached an agreement and Lyndon is dropping the claim to tax the Waste District. This has been an ongoing dispute for four years.
- Christopher Kirk – Parking Lot/Road – resident of Partridge Lane. Resident spoke to Logger who is to clear an area for a parking lot to the Town Forest. Christopher Kirk and other residents on Partridge Lane have written a letter to the Selectboard with their concerns for traffic on this road. Christopher Kirk also has concerns for dumping and crime in this area. He does not want a two way entrance, he would like one way in and one way out as he feels this will deter persons from using the road. He also has a concern for the location of the parking lot as it is close to his house. Concern is children parking and partying there at 11pm and no monitoring of the area. His seeks to use the existing stump dump forest road for the parking area. The area between Partridge and Webster had a culvert washed out a long time ago and it was not replace for 2.5 years. When this happened there was no traffic in that area. Christopher Kirk wants the road to be considered not a thru road to traffic and would like the parking lot relocated.

Evangelyn Morse (Conservation Commission Chair) noted the parking lot location was decided on by the Conservation Commission but they were willing to consider alternate locations and relook at the location to decide what works best for everyone.

Ken Linsley noted the Class 4 portion of road was not maintained. It is not plowed and does not receive any summer maintenance unless there is a 12" hole then it is filled in, otherwise there is no maintenance to the road.

Chris Kirk spoke of the history of the road. It was previously known as Stage Coach Road and one way went to Currier and the other went to the Town dump.

Ken Linsley noted the Town would have to throw up the road or close a Town road and would have to limit its use to individuals.

Kellie Merrell noted the Town's interest is not to give up its ROWs. Typically, the Town does not throw up roads. There is formal process that can downgrade a Class 4 to a trail. With existing roads, the Town has interests in them in terms of usefulness at a later date in the future.

Chris Kirk suggest if culvert washed out again for the Town not to fix it.

Evangelyn Morse inquired for clarity in terms of Chris Kirk's comfortability with logging area.

Chris Kirk discussed logging and noted he was.

- Greg Prior – Operations – resident of Sugar Ridge. Submitted an email of operation maintenance of buildings and energy. He has occupation in these fields and would like to bring some preventative maintenance to some of the Town buildings such as the Recycle/Train Station. He is currently working with Greenbanks. He has spoken to the Highway Department to see what they currently use for tracking purposes and would like to see what the rest of the Town currently uses. Greg Prior discussed working with school and helping them.

Ken Linsley noted Greg would need to discuss school information with the school and suggested that he speak to Dave Schilling at the school to see what they have and what they may want to do.

Greg Prior noted he would work on this and email the Selectboard with information.

Kellie Merrell spoke of the Energy Committee and the energy audit that was done years ago but never completed. She thought looking at ways to help with heat expense would be beneficial. She suggested Greg Prior contact Alison Low.

- Michael Hogue – Status of Train Station Costs and Funds – Committee received preliminary estimate of budget for \$517,000. The Committee presented \$386,000 to the Selectboard and the Committee was to raise \$400,000. The Canopy and platform was where the price increase was. The Committee has suggested they step back and take a look at what they are doing and look at scope and use and process procedure and cost. The Committee would like to raise the amount from \$50,000 to \$100,000 at Town Meeting from the voters.

Kellie Merrell discussed increase in cost and where to look for money. She noted the Town was still waiting for guidance on use of ARPA funds which could possibly be used. She is less inclined to go to tax payers to try to get the money unless ARPA funds are constrained.

Michael Hogue wondered if the cost was really \$517,000. There is an increase in labor and industry rates and thought they should wait to see the upcoming rates. There are also grants they can explore such as Federal money which they have not explored yet. He agreed to stick with the plan of \$50,000 at Town Meeting and explore other additional funds.

Ken Linsley noted he was leery of using ARPA funds as he has not seen determinate for fund usage.

Eric Bach was hopeful that some ARPA funds could be used for exterior or outside land. His concern was putting the number too high at Town Meeting then they may not get buy in and not able to recover after that.

4. **Town Clerk** (Wendy Somers)

- Delinquencies \$126,000
- Tillson Broadband coming to evaluate Town building for possible switch over for internet as upload speeds are slow.
- VOIP System – Town can also get VOIP system through Vonage or Ring Central to reduce cost of phone system.

Kellie Merrell wondered if there was any way the Town could provide a Wi-Fi spot for persons to use if service at home was bad. She suggested the parking lot near Town Hall for a public space with Wi-Fi.

Eric Bach suggested Gazebo on Town Green.

Wendy Somers noted she is inquiring about such with Tillson.

Kristin Franson discussed router or boost in park for use.

- Sent in all MVP contracts to set up accounts. Dental and Vision can be purchased direct by employees if they want to purchase it themselves.
- Gary Young of Walden Hill came in to see Town Clerk about reappraisal which listed him as a Co-Owner. He is not an owner or a co-owner. The information was put there for mailing purposes only as there was no room in the mailing section for his information by NEMRC. Gary Young became verbally abusive towards Town Clerk when she tried to explain this information to him. He forcefully tried to make the Town Clerk understand that he is the owner because of the paper he received. The Town Clerk explained that he would need to contact an attorney to get the deed changed. The owner passed away in 2017 and Gary Young has stayed at the location and paid the taxes. The deceased owner does have relatives in CT and possibly somewhere in town but no one has started an Estate. Gary Young made the Town Clerk feel uneasy and threatened. She was uncomfortable by his demeanor as she was the only person there. The Town Clerk wondered if she could just ask him to contact the Town in the future by phone, mail or email only. His history and background does not make the Town Clerk feel safe to deal with if she is alone.

Kristin Franson did not feel a restraining order was necessary nor did she want to inflame the situation.

Peter Griffin suggested Wendy Somers document all information and give notice to the guardian of Gary Young.

Wendy Somers spoke of concerns for each resident living there for she has received complaints from residents regarding the trash on premises, living conditions, and dumping of human waste on the property.

As Gary Young has a guardian, suggestion was to have a letter sent to the guardian indicating the necessary documents required by Town Hall along with VT Legal Aid contact information.

5. **Highway Foreman** (Keith Gadapee)

- Seeks direction from Selectboard for intent for parking lots on Green. Keith Gadapee is suggesting to post 'No Overnight Parking' lot signs which will help store owners and plowing. Residents are parking there and public not being able to use them.

Eric Bach agrees. Discussed cars with flat tires and cars on Hill Street being left there for twenty four hours.

Keith Gadapee said he could try to get in contact with person who park where they shouldn't.

Ken Linsley suggested to check with VLCT about creating an ordinance.

Kristin Franson suggested to try as Keith suggested.

Greg Prior suggested stenciling on pavement in summer and placing signs in winter months. He does not favor signs as he thinks it brings the Town down.

- Insurance claim due to a fender bender at garage. All is good and being handled.

6. Issues and Information (All)

- (a) **Bid Opening – Chassis (Truck)** – sent to four different truck vendors with the possibility of receiving nine back however, only received bids from two vendors which contained six trucks.

Allegiance Truck from Jericho, VT submitted three bids:

\$75,590 for Bid Spec Chassis (truck price \$126,145) Truck is not brand wanted.

\$71,219 for Stock Chassis on order (truck price \$121,774) Not exact spec something Allegiance truck ordered and stocked.

\$83,183 for HX Optional Bid (truck price \$133,738) Does not have front mount and is not 100% designed for job Highway Department does.

Trade value on each is \$50,550 and delivery date is mid to late 2022

RR Charlebois Inc. from Milton, VT submitted three bids:

\$115,100 for 2023 Freightliner 114SD (truck price \$133,100) Meets spec 100%.

\$123,130 for a 2023 Western Star 4700SF (truck price \$141,130) Meets spec 100%.

\$125,400 for a 2023 Western Star 47X (truck price \$143,400) Meets and exceeds specs.

Trade value on each is \$18,000 and delivery date is July/August 2022

Keith Gadapee favors the new generation as it has helpful options and is more rugged. Specs for truck were extremely tight. Specs for truck is what Keith Gadapee wants to purchase for Highway Department. Keith Gadapee sought a specific engine which Allegiance cannot give him but Charlebois could. Highway Department has had issues with engines from Allegiance on two trucks they have given the Town in the past. The engine they have in the trade does not give them much for a trade because of the engine. Last three trucks purchased, the Town has gone away from International because of the Detroit engine. The last purchase was a Western Star for quality and higher trade value.

Delivery date discussed.

Sandy Ladd of Charlebois discussed trade value of the International engine which is not favorable so that is why their trade value is much lower. Allegiance is able to move those trucks out at higher numbers. The value on trade would be \$60-70,000 if it was a Freightliner but because of the engine it is a lower trade value. The last two vehicles he sold to the Town, the Town still has. The Town has a Western Star 4700 in the fleet and the Western Star 47X is the next generation.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Eric Bach to accept bid from RR Charlebois Inc. for Western Star 47X for \$125,400. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

- (b) **Bid Opening - Equipment (Body)** – sent to three vendors only two responded.

Viking Cives (Williston, VT) \$76,650 meets spec with delivery date 30-45 days dependent on chassis delivery date

HP Fairfield two bids:

\$78,950 for Twin MG body

\$71,950 for Everest body

Both meet spec. This vendor is in Hopkinton, NH.

Keith Gadapee recommends Viking Cives as it is closer to Danville. Both vendors have quality equipment and he has worked with both vendors.

Motion by Kristin Franson, 2nd by Eric Bach to accept bid of \$76,650 from Viking Cives with verification of conditions in bid per Keith Gadapee. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

- (c) **Grant Writer – Motion & Conditions** – Michael Hogue to write scope of work for Grant Writer and Administrators which will be brought to Selectboard for a Motion.

Ken Linsley noted Audrey DeProspero has information about the REDI grant which comes from Vermont Housing and Conservation. This grant can be used for writing consultants or salary for a grant writer but scope of work for grant writer is required.

Michael Hogue to work with Audrey DeProspero on REDI grant information.

- (d) **Owl Purchase** – Audrey DeProspero – The Meeting Owl Pro is a device with a 360 degree camera and speaker. The cost is \$999 and includes a USB cable and a power cable. It comes with a 2 year warranty from date of purchase that covers anything internally that can go wrong with the Meeting Owl Pro. An extended warranty (Owl Care) can be purchased for \$150 and lasts for 3 years instead of 2 and covers breakage as well. The only connections needed are the power cable and the USB cable. The device does not have to be connected to the internet but can for security updates and new features. By purchasing this device, participants at Selectboard meetings would no longer need to step up to come in front of a computer, they could just stay in their seats and speak from there. This eliminates close contact as well as any confusion and fumbling with computer speakers, microphones and loudness or squelching or feedback noise.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Eric Bach to purchase Meeting Owl Pro for \$999 with 16 foot Cable Extension for \$15. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

- (e) **Municipal Mask Mandate** – Ken Linsley – legislature giving municipalities the option for a mask mandate. The concern is how it will be enforced.

Kristin Franson noted her company requires people to wear masks, and if they do not have a mask then they get no service.

Ken Linsley noted anyone entering Town Hall is required to wear a mask. He wondered if they would be able to mandate the entire town.

Kellie Merrell noted they did not have the authority yet.

Peter Griffin noted the Governor has the authority to make towns have a mask mandate but he did not think it should fall to local government. He thought the decision should be by the Governor/Legislature not local government.

Eric Bach discussed mailing letter to businesses supporting the upcoming decision and including educational information from Department of Health and CDC. He noted if people have feedback they could contact him.

- (f) **Proclamation – School Choice Week** –

Ken Linsley does not think there is a need to send out proclamation.

Peter Griffin felt the same.

Eric Bach thought the school board should make the decision.

Noted was that there is no school of choice in Danville.

- (g) **Basketball** – Kristin Franson – contacted by Randy Rathburn in regards to using second floor of Town Hall for basketball practices.

Ken Linsley thought the Town should work as they have in the past, after 4pm and they are responsible for cleaning and required to wear masks.

Kristin Franson will get back to Randy Rathburn with this information and instruct him to reach out to Wendy Somers for coordination.

- (h) **Resignation** – Bob Larose has turned in his resignation for all titles that he holds for positions under employment with the Town effective January 1, 2022. Bob is willing to continue work with the Town as a contractor.
- (i) **Village Improvement Society – Green Usage** – Eric Bach noted he was contacted about decorating the Gazebo on the Green with a tree and lights as has been done in the past. The Girl Scouts will also be helping.
- (j) **Financial Orders – Orders to Review and Sign** – Ken Linsley – proposed Selectboard approve Ken Linsley or other person on Selectboard who is present to sign orders on a permanent basis until there is a quorum of the Selectboard present.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kristin Franson to approve Ken Linsley or other Selectboard member who is present to sign the orders unless there is a quorum. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

Informational Items:

Eric Bach inquired if Selectboard needed to address the acceptance of funds during budget season.

Ken Linsley noted they did not.

7. **Adjourn** – *Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kristin Franson to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted November 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm.