

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
January 6, 2022
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: Virginia Incerpi, Clayton Cargill, Bill Bailey and Mary Wyand

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero, Keith Gadapee and Amy Hornblas

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

1. **Additions to the agenda:**

- Tilson Contract
- Hazardous Waste Day
- Town Meeting
- Compost Collection
- ARPA Status
- Executive Session Personnel

2. *Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve **minutes** of the **Regular meeting of December 16** with spelling correction of 'Keezer' to 'Keiser' page 5. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

3. **Visitor:**

- Michael Hogue – unable to attend.

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

- Sewer Applications:

James and Suzanne DeMasi and Jennifer Sweet and Andy DeMasi, 132 Peacham Road

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kristin Franson to approve application. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

Ryan Dauphin, Peacham Road (water and sewer for lot that is for sale).

Ken Linsley noted the application was only good for two years and then the applicant has to start paying for use.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to approve application. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

Existing permit change from single family house to multi residence with two units at 20 Walden Hill (owners Jane and Guil Kitchel).

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve application. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

Windswept Properties LLC (Steve Larrabee). Ten single family homes with three bedrooms each.

Peter Griffin inquired if the applicant was seeking one permit or ten.

Wendy Somers noted the applicant submitted one application with payment of \$100 which is \$10 per each unit.

Ken Linsley noted in two years they will need to start paying the normal usage.

Discussion ensued around one house already being built with residing residents and the required inspection by Stub Parker, the residence needing to be put on sewer list and another lot being sold.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve application. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

Kellie Merrell inquired if the Town was near capacity.

Ken Linsley discussed the 36,000 gallons per day and the 48,000 gallon limit before needing a survey.

- Tilson Broadband was in on Monday, January 3. Discussions have been in the works for getting broadband for Town Hall, Town Garage and Town's Fire Department. Tilson submitted a proposal that would save the Town \$325 yearly for internet with a two year contract. Telephones will stay the same but being looked into for VOIP. Broadband installation decision was to use the Hill Street pole and hook to backside of Town Hall building instead of going across Route 2 with wires. CFW Electric will install the mast to the backside of the building on January 17 and then Tilson Broadband will take care of the broadband to Town Hall.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Peter Griffin to proceed with Tilson Broadband to upgrade Town Hall's internet service and to go with a two year contract. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

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

- Tim Ruggles has numbers prepared for Hill Street project.

Ken Linsley noted the number would be required for the budget.

Kellie Merrell sought resolution regarding line painting.

Keith Gadapee noted it was not the time of the year to paint lines. VTrans was out of paint and could not get any more. Danville was not the only Town that did not get lines completely painted.

6. **Issues and Information** (All)

- (a) **Mask Mandate Extension** – Amy Hornblas from Cabot spoke of letter written to the Selectboard and the CCSU Advisory Union. She suggested people read the science and the study that was done. She explained how a face mask worn during exercise would deprive people of oxygen. Amy Hornblas stands on the street near Town Hall with signs about mask wearing. She strongly suggested the Selectboard read the study done and consider the effects of masks on people. She feels mask are dangerous for people with COPD and people in general.

Ken Linsley discussed passing rule for requiring masks on December 2, 2021 and the extension that could be done on the mask mandate for another 30 days if the Selectboard felt the need to do so. The current rule has an expiration date of January 15, 2022.

Peter Griffin thought the decision of a mask mandate should be held at the state level however the state has given the responsibility to the towns. He spoke of the CDC recommendation for wearing a mask and how it slows the spread, noting that VT Health has indicated that mask slow the spread as well as the health professionals in town have indicated masks slow the spread. Peter Griffin noted there were 2,000 covid cases today.

Motion by Peter Griffin, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to extend the mask mandate for an additional 30 days. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

Kellie Merrell noted she appreciated Amy Hornblas' perspective and thanked Amy Hornblas for wearing a mask while inside Town Hall. Kellie Merrell appreciates the

science perspective behind masks slowing the spread and limiting the spread of the disease that is killing people.

Clayton Cargill noted a bill went on the house floor today for a state wide mask mandate.

Peter Griffin noted even though there was opposition from the attendees at the last meeting, he received a lot of positive feedback after the meeting from Danville residents.

Eric Bach noted he had heard from two people who were not supportive of masks but also heard from eight supportive people of which two were business owners.

Wendy Somers noted she was a firm supporter of wearing a mask.

Ken Linsley noted wearing a mask is not an end all but it is to reduce the risk to people who are either vaccinated or not vaccinated.

- (b) **Road Name Change (Stannard Mountain)** – On December 16, 2021, Annabelle Hodges presented a petition to the Selectboard to change the road name of Stannard Mountain Road to Cary Pond Road. Selectboard reviewed request and information received from state and E911.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve the road name change request from Stannard Mountain Road to Cary Pond Road with a small ceremony when the new road name sign is erected due to history of road. Also letters are to be sent to residents of road notifying them of road name change. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

- (c) **Outlets on the Green (RFP)** – Audrey DeProspero – three vendors were sent information on the outlets on the Green and only one vendor responded.

Ken Linsley suggested to find out if the poles listed on the RFP are both 12 foot poles and 16 foot poles and to ask the state if the state has any objection to the Town replacing the GFI receptacles on the state poles.

- (d) **Budget** – Municipal and Highway – Eric Bach

Municipal Budget

Wendy Somers discussed current carry over from last year to this year: \$66,372.22 for Municipal and \$111,260.11 for Highway.

Eric Bach discussed Municipal Budget line items.

Ken Linsley discussed income, property taxes and year end 2021 information.

Suggestions and edits were made to municipal budget.

Selectboard discussed revenue line item.

Peter Griffin inquired if the delinquent taxes listed under the revenue portion of the budget were from 2021 delinquent taxes collected.

Wendy Somers noted they were for delinquent taxes from the past.

Ken Linsley noted Income from Fines and Current Use were down and wondered why.

Wendy Somers noted Current Use changes and earmarking a dollar amount.

Ken Linsley discussed payment from state not being a dollar-for-dollar situation.

Peter Griffin inquired about the yellow highlighted lines in the budget.

Eric Bach noted they were new line items they had to put in.

Selectboard discussed new recycle building cost, state money, building fund and amounts noting that figures should be put into budget.

Office Operations and Town Building expenses discussed.

60 Route 2 West Building Removal line was deleted from spreadsheet.

Computer expenses discussed and Keith Gadapee noted his new computer was put in the Highway Budget.

Fire Department budget discussed and noted was final numbers from the insurance company were not received.

Selectboard discussed Fire Department looking for grants and encouraging them to work with adjoining towns to use/share equipment.

Ken Linsley noted ARPA funds were not in the budget as they are pending determination of use.

Peter Griffin wondered if ARPA funds could be used for possible reduction in property taxes.

Keith Gadapee discussed parking lot for 2022 for Town vote and inquired if it could be considered as a Warned Article for Town Meeting Day.

Eric Bach thought it was a good idea.

Kellie Merrell agreed and thought it was a good opportunity to do now so they would not have to increase taxes.

Payroll and Benefits discussed. Payroll related expenses were left blank until salary determination is made.

Kristin Franson thought a larger increase should be done than they have in the past. She suggested to look into other towns to see what they are doing. She also discussed doing something similar to the State with structuring pay for employees length of service. She thought with Covid and the economy, they should compensate their good employees a little bit.

Keith Gadapee discussed his suggested increase and wanting to keep his employees. He noted VTrans gave a large pay increase to their employees and a nearby town gave a large increase to their highway crew.

Highway Budget

Keith Gadapee discussed Revenue line having a slight increase. The carryover was \$111,260.11. The Paving Grant line is for Joe's Brook, the grant was received but the work was put off from 2021. Better Back Roads Grant was applied for but denied last year. Equipment fund transfer is for new truck. Payroll and benefit already has amount put in for increase with FICA and taxes. Office operation has the new computer listed. Special Projects is the Hill Street project for capturing water from parking lot next to Town Hall. Class 3 Roads over spending is because of culverts purchased but since the Town did not get the grant the work was not completed but the culverts were purchased and ready to be used. Nothing in Class 4. Truck and Equipment is for the painting of a truck body this year. Lubricants and oil increased. Peacham Road three-year loan payment and Reserve Funding discussed. Total budget \$1,885,326.22.

Selectboard discussed extra meeting to review budgets

Consensus is to hold a Special Meeting on January 13 at 6pm to review budget and Town Meeting Day.

- (e) **Tilson Contract** – see Town Clerk
- (f) **Hazardous Waste Day** – Ken Linsley – NEKWMD has scheduled hazardous waste day for August 6th which is the same day as the Danville Fair. Location for hazardous waste collection discussed and suggested was to have it at the highway garage when the new recycle building was constructed.

Consensus was to ask NEKWMD if a date change could be done due to conflict.

- (g) **Town Meeting** – Ken Linsley – waiting to see what legislature is going to do. The Town may be able to have all voting by Australian ballot but who will bear the cost for ballot mailing is unknown yet and the Town can choose to extend the date of Town Meeting if they want.
- (h) **Compost Collection** – Kellie Merrell – new food scrap hauler and farmer composter in Danville who is pursuing the permit process for composting with the state. The hauler is obtaining his solid waste permit from DEC and will need a permit from NEKWMD. This may be a possible alternative for composting in Town, if the Town does not want to continue to compost through NEKWMD.
- (i) **ARPA Status** – Ken Linsley – the US Treasury has just released the final rule on the use of ARPA funds. The detailed rule is 437 pages long. There is an overview of the final rule which is only 44 pages. The final rule for ARPA funds is specific to qualifications of specific expenditures.

(j) **Executive Session**

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Peter Griffin to go into Executive Session under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (c) personnel at 9:13 pm and invite Wendy Somers and Audrey DeProspero. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Peter Griffin to leave Executive Session at 9:24 pm. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

7. **Adjourn** – *Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Eric Bach to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted January 7, 2022 at 2:18 pm.