

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
February 17, 2022
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

Board Members Present Using Microsoft Teams: Eric Bach, Kellie Merrell, Kristin Franson and Peter Griffin (6:19 pm)

Board Members Present: Ken Linsley

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero, Wendy Somers, Janice Ouellette, Dianne Langmaid, Craig Morris, and Jonathan Austin-Shortt

Others Present Using Microsoft Teams: Jim Brimblecombe

Meeting was called to order by Chair Ken Linsley at 6:04 pm.

1. **Additions to the agenda:** None
2. *Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to approve **minutes** of the **Regular meeting of February 3** with corrections, add 'Keith Gadapee' to Others Present Using Microsoft Teams and add 'Kellie Merrell' to section (e) in front of 'attended VLCT webinar'. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.*
3. **Visitor:**
 - Walter McNeil, Jr. – NEKWMD – absent
4. **Town Clerk** (Wendy Somers)
 - Local Democracy Internship through UVM has given the Town an intern and Wendy Somers wondered if the Selectboard had any special projects in mind.

Ken Linsley suggested community outreach on ARPA monies such as where it could be spent.

Kellie Merrell agreed and noted assistance from the intern would be helpful.

Kristin Franson suggested website update such as modify and enhancing and having an electronic survey monkey questionnaire created for ARPA funds.

5. **Highway Foreman** (Keith Gadapee absent) – Ken Linsley for Keith Gadapee
 - Curb Cut for Mathew and Stacia Ghafoori for a driveway access and selective logging on Bruce Badger Memorial Highway (parcel ID SA002-060-000). The application signed and approved by Keith Gadapee notes that no culvert is required.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Eric Bach to accept the driveway access for Bruce Badger Memorial Highway for Matthew and Stacia Ghafoori (parcel ID SA002-060-000). Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- Posting of Roads – this time of year, Keith Gadapee asks the Selectboard if they want him to post the roads for spring truck traffic due to mud. It is his recommendation not to post the roads and to just work with the operators in preserving the Town roads during spring break up.

Consensus is to do what has been done in the past.

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

- (a) **Proposed Town Policy – FD** – Fire Chief Jonathan Austin-Shortt drafted a policy for consideration by the Selectboard based off Bill H.314 introduced in 2009 by Representatives but did not pass. Suggested is for Town employees to be able to leave their post when needed when there is an emergency call. He does not want persons penalized or punished and to be able to make their own decision without delay to respond to an emergency call.

Ken Linsley inquired how many people in the Fire Department this policy would apply to. Jonathan Austin-Shortt noted currently just one. He noted it would be an incentive for new volunteers.

6:19 pm Peter Griffin joined meeting.

Eric Bach noted some town's have implemented a policy similar to this and he did not feel that this policy was too far-fetched, although the Selectboard would have to figure out the discretion such as, if there is a huge snowstorm.

Ken Linsley referred to the Highway Manual Section 6e: Fire Department:

Section 6e: Fire Department

Any employee of the Highway Department that is a member of the Fire Department can respond to a fire call during work hours with permission from the Road Foreman or an appointed Lead Crew Member at the time of the call. If permission is granted, leave time must be used if available (comp., vacation, personal). If there is no leave time available, the employee will not be paid during the time away from work. If the fire call happens prior to working hours and the time is expected to extend into the work day, the Road Foreman must be notified prior to the tardiness. A fire call is not an excused absence from a call in.

Kristin Franson noted the Highway Manual would need adjustment taking out 'using comp time,' if the Selectboard wanted to implement this suggested policy.

Ken Linsley inquired why Bill H.314 hadn't passed.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt noted he did not know but it was introduced for multiple years and assumed because of what was attached to the Bill.

Ken Linsley suggested the Selectboard review the Highway Manual's applicable section and for the information to be brought back after a new board has been secured.

Kellie Merrell suggested Wendy Somers and Keith Gadapee review the submitted suggestion and the Highway Manual.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt noted the cost would not be a substantial cut into the budget as calls are few and only one to three hours long.

Eric Bach noted the Fire Department could not have a stipend attached to their work. He thought the State Handbook had some information in it and asked Kellie Merrell to look into the State information and get a copy for the Selectboard.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt inquired if Eric Bach meant that employee would need to choose stipend or Town pay.

Eric Bach noted yes.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt discussed a previous Fire Department emergency call for a chimney fire whereas the employee could not reach his supervisor and the employee told another employee that he was leaving and the employee that left faced disciplinary action because he didn't reach the supervisor. By implementing this policy, Jonathan Austin-Shortt is seeking to avoid this from happening again.

Ken Linsley doesn't want to cause any other emergencies by someone just leaving.

Kellie Merrell noted she found the State language.

Ken Linsley suggested the State language be forwarded to the Selectboard.

- (b) **Historic Marker** – Audrey DeProspero noted that Rob Balivet had previously written to the Selectboard recommending they investigate the possibility of a Vermont Historic Roadside Marker to honor the legacy of Joe and Molly, indigenous natives.

Ken Linsley discussed issue of mascot and historic markers being paid for by the Town or an organization. Ken Linsley discussed a possible location for the marker being Bricket Park near Joe's Pond. He wondered if there was sufficient interest in a historic marker.

Dianne Langmaid offered the support of the Historical Society and noted they helped with the Thaddeus Stevens marker. She also spoke about the West Danville Vermont, Then and Now 1781-2021 book which has a section in it about the history of Joe and Molly.

Peter Griffin noted the Agency of Commerce and Community Development criteria and application indicates, if the Selectboard want to do, they can, however it does not have to come from the Town, it can come from a private organization. It is not up to the Selectboard, if an individual or organization want to move it forward, they can per the rulings. Peter Griffin noted when he thinks of mascot, he thinks of school board and thought they should be included.

Dianne Langmaid noted if the Historical Society wanted to pursue, they would come to the Selectboard for placement.

Ken Linsley doesn't have any problem with this request.

Diane Langmaid noted it was a historical item and the Historical Society has the history of Joe and Molly. She noted the Historical Society would get in touch with Rob Balivet.

Kellie Merrell was concerned with the 'division' words used in Rob Balivet's email.

Ken Linsley doesn't think this will stir anything up. This is a recognition of Molly and Joe.

Diane Langmaid noted the Historical Society was very cautious and considerate when the information of Molly and Joe was put into the book.

Ken Linsley noted if the Historical Society has an interest, they should pursue it.

- (c) **CPI** – Ken Linsley discussed standard inflation in the contract with H2O Innovations and the potential change over weekend to complete work.

No concerns were noted over the adjustment.

Jim Brimblecombe noted H2O did not have rollover numbers until February 28th.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve signing of the Compensation Adjustment for Contract Year Commencing on March 1, 2022. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

Wendy Somers inquired if Jim Brimblecombe wanted to speak about the telephone pole.

Jim Brimblecombe noted the telephone pole near Marty's was damaged and the damaged pole feeds the Wastewater facility. The driveway into the Wastewater plant, a tree came down on the line and it took the pole and tweaked it so Green Mountain Power had to come and replace the pole. At first there did not appear to be any issues to the Wastewater facility building but with a second look, the facility was found to be without power. Waterford Electric was called to assess and submitted a quote for \$4,450. He wondered whether to put this invoice through insurance or use the maintenance money in the Wastewater facility budget but that would use most of the maintenance fund up.

Kellie Merrell wondered if it would be better to go through insurance.

Jim Brimblecombe did not know what the insurance deductible was.

Ken Linsley suggested to get another quote such as CFW or someone else. He also would like to visit the site tomorrow to get a better read of the situation. He thought perhaps Green Mountain Power may need to be called to address this issue.

- (d) **Sheriff Contract** – Ken Linsley – \$5,200 was budgeted for 2022 Sheriff Contract for June through October split between Route 2, the Village, Peacham, Brainerd and Hill Street and any other locations the Selectboard find need Sheriff's attention.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kristin Franson to approve Ken Linsley to sign the Sheriff Contract. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

- (e) **Town Meeting** – Ken Linsley – ballots are done and mailed; warnings are posted around Town; Tabulator testing will commence this coming week; Town Reports are distributed around Town and Informational meetings are scheduled for February 24 and 28.

Peter Griffin thanked Kristin Franson for her service on the Selectboard.

Ken Linsley noted Kristin Franson has been on the Selectboard for three years.

- 7. **Adjourn** – *Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted February 22, 2022 at 11:29 am.