

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2017

Selectboard Members Present: Joan Goodrich (Chair), Susan Elder, Ruben Hook

Other Town Officials Present: Maggie Kerrin (Town Administrator)

Others Present: Ryan Morrison, Pam Davis, Thomas Stearns

The meeting was brought to order by Joan Goodrich at 6:30 pm.

Changes to the Agenda:

Add: Potential Town Vote for Zoning Bylaw and Flood Hazard Area Regulations
Appointment of Ryan Morrison as EC Fiber Representative
Review of RFPs for Snow Removal and Town Hall Historic Preservation Grant
Policing Hearing Report
Update on FEMA meeting for June 30th/July 1st flooding
Town LED Street Lights

Public Comments:

Susan mentioned that she had spoken with someone from the Court who had positive comments about the Bridge 9 and Bridge 11 projects.

Approve Minutes

Susan Elder moved to approve the September 19, 2017 Chelsea Selectboard Meeting minutes as written. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

Ryan Morrison – Potential Appointment as EC Fiber Representative

Ryan Morrison addressed the Selectboard and requested that he be appointed as an EC Fiber Representative for the Town of Chelsea.

Susan Elder moved to appoint Ryan Morrison as EC Fiber Representative for the Town of Chelsea. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

Joan signed the Resolution to Appoint Representative to the Governing Board of East Central Vermont Telecommunications District (ECVTD) appointing Ryan Morrison to this position.

Unlicensed Dog/Animal Control Ordinance/Enforcement

The Town Clerk reports that there are still unlicensed dogs in Town. She has sent letters to the dog owners, along with a copy of the new Town animal control ordinance for reference.

Animal Control Office

Maggie informed the Board of three recent animal complaints and a recent meeting she had with Sheriff Bohnyak regarding these complaints. The Sheriff is willing to have his department assist with these types of complaints, and also with ticketing/enforcement for unlicensed dogs and other Town requirements/ordinance violations, as needed. Based on contract and availability, animal control issues will likely require assistance from Orange County Sheriff Department, Vermont State Police, and possibly Random Rescue.

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Policing Hearing Update

Joan informed the Board that she had recently attended a Fall Senate Government Operations Committee Law Enforcement Public Forum and had learned a lot about the policing challenges currently being discussed statewide. This discussion included inequity of coverage, some communities not paying for cost of policing in their communities, and limited State Police resources. Maggie explained that our current contract with Orange County Sheriff Department (OCSD) covers 6.18 hours per week. The Board will be reviewing the OCSD contract prior to its renewal in January 2018.

Highway Department

Tesla – Solar Installation – Trench Needed (Tabled to next meeting)

Town Highway Permit from Washington Electric Cooperative (Tabled to next meeting)

Green Mountain Power – LED Lighting

Thomas Stearns addressed the Board regarding the new LED street lighting that is being installed. He asked that the Board contact Green Mountain (GMP) Power to address the intensity of the lighting that affects his residence. Maggie will contact GMP and Efficiency Vermont to find out if we can alleviate this problem and to find out why we hadn't received the street light inventory to review prior to the lights being replaced.

FEMA Meeting for June 30th/July 1st Flooding -Update

Joan gave an update on the phone conference and office visit from FEMA regarding the June/July flooding. She discussed the 1.5 hour office meeting that was held in the Town Administrator's office to review the Damage Inventory. She talked about the damage to the Recreation Field, and about culverts that were upgraded with the understanding that FEMA would cover that cost during reparations. FEMA is checking to find out if that is the case. Ideally, FEMA will cover 75% of the cost of damages with an additional 12.5% coming from the State. All damages need to be submitted to FEMA within the next 60 days. Costs included in request for reimbursement can include: administrative, equipment, highway crew time, equipment, and materials.

Joan also talked about a recent conversation she and Maggie had with Vermont Emergency Management regarding the uncertain timeline for Hurricane Irene buyout and elevation monies to be received due to the fact that FEMA is applying its resources currently on Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and other disaster related situations that have recently occurred.

Water/Wastewater- October Water Bills

Maggie reminded the Board that October water bills would be going out again next week. The Board asked that a reminder go out to customers with Letters of Payment Agreements in place reminding them that they must stay current on new bills in addition to keeping up with payment plan agreements.

Transfer Station

Update on American Electrical Progress

Maggie informed the Board that Jim Coffey has completed the majority of the work to be done at the Transfer Station and will complete the remaining portion once the interior of the building is insulated and sheetrocked.

Grow Compost Invoices

Maggie shared invoices received from Cathleen Gent at Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District showing the charges for food scrap removal for the months of July, August, and September

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2017. Total costs per month were \$91.00. The Board discussed consideration of future charges for this service. No determinations were made.

Solicitation Policy/Petitions

The Board reviewed the Social Service Appropriation Policy as presented. Joan asked that we vote on it at the next meeting.

Town Vote on Zoning Bylaw and Flood Hazard Area Regulations

The Board discussed the fact that a vote is still needed to approve the draft of the Flood Hazard Area Regulations, as presented at the September 13, 2016 public hearing.

Susan Elder moved to approve the Flood Hazard Area Regulations for the Town of Chelsea. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

The Board would like to coordinate voting with the upcoming School vote set for November 7th. Maggie will prepare necessary documents and coordinate with the Town Clerk in an attempt to allow all votes to occur at the same date/time. The Board anticipates a public informational meeting will be held prior to the vote on November 7, 2017.

Current Budget – Review to Date
(Tabled to next meeting)

Bridge 9 Concerns

Joan told the Board that she had gone down to Bridge 9 to check on some concerns expressed about the difficulty getting a wheelchair over the 1.5" lip of the curb at the bridge crosswalk. Maggie will go and take pictures to submit to the State and request that they modify the curb there to alleviate the problem.

Town Administrator/Report

Maggie reviewed the Vermont State Police report for September 2017 with the Board. She also discussed the need to schedule a training for the VT Alert notifiers to meet with Randall Bronson from Vermont Emergency Management. Maggie also shared an email from Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee that discussed an opportunity to receive a Determination of Compliance through Two Rivers; this would afford Chelsea "substantial deference in the Section 248 process for energy generating facilities." Maggie reminded the Selectboard members that the Planning Commission would be hosting an Economic Development discussion on Thursday, October 5th. The Board reviewed the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Tree Service that will print in the Our Herald newspaper, the Snow Shoveling RFP, and the RFP for the Historic Preservation Grant for the Town Hall.

Executive Session – Personnel

Susan Elder moved to go into executive session at 8:15PM (Personnel) after making a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor so moved. The Town Administrator was invited to stay.

Susan Elder moved to exit executive session at 8:24PM. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

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No action was taken.

Executive Session – Legal

Susan Elder moved to go into executive session at 8:25PM (Legal) after making a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor so moved. The Town Administrator was invited to stay.

Susan Elder moved to exit executive session at 8:47PM. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

The Board asked the Town Administrator to inform the Town attorney that they wanted to proceed with legal action.

Sign Orders

The Board reviewed and signed the order.

Susan Elder moved to approve the orders. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

Adjourn

Susan Elder moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48PM. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.