

TOWN of BRIDPORT
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2020
Town Office 6:00 PM



PRESENT: Tim Howlett (Chair), Jessica Stocker, Joan Huestis, David Bronson, Bob Sunderland (arrived at 6:06pm)

Also Present: Julie Howlett(Town Clerk), Kathleen King (Town Treasurer), Dusty Huestis (Road Foreman by telephone), Eric Conroy, Vicki Major, Suzanne Buck (Listers), Clearance Deering, Chuch Welch(Bridport Fire Department), Jane Lazorchak (Fish & Wildlife, arrived at 6:15 pm)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair, Tim Howlett.

Public Comment

Jane Lazorchak from Vermont Fish & Wildlife asked for formal permission to purchase 433 acres of land from Clarence Deering to be added to the Lemon Fair Wildlife Management in the Town of Bridport. 20% of the acres acquired will be for public use through the Vermont fish & wildlife and 80% of the acres will be leased to farmers. Joan made a motion to have Chair, Tim Howlett sign a letter of support for the acquisition. Bob seconded, motion passed

Chuck Welch from the Bridport Fire Department attended the meeting representing Emergency Services in Bridport. Emergency Services are in need of a repeater to be able to talk to each other during an emergency. Currently there are areas in town where emergency services cannot talk to one another. This will cost \$16,000. Chuck asked for this to either be a line item in the 2021 budget or to be voted on at Town meeting. The Selectboard will make that decision when they discuss the budget in the future.

Secretary's Report: Jess made a motion to accept the September 11 & 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes. David seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Jess made a motion to pay \$266,981.80 in bills which included paving. David seconded, motion passed.

New Business

Errors & Omissions: Eric Conroy presented the town with a report of errors and omissions that will change the figures of the grand list. Jess made a motion to sign the Errors & Omissions Certificate. Joan seconded, motion passed.

Town Wide Reappraisal: Suzanne Buck advised the board for the need to begin the process of a town wide reappraisal. Currently there is a 3 year waiting list for Town reappraisals and that would bring our last reappraisal to 14 years, every 10 year is recommended. Joan made a motion for the town to be put on a waiting list for a Town reappraisal and to put an advertisement in the paper. Jess seconded, motion passed

COVID: The board discussed the recent rise in covid cases in the county and what that means for staff. Policy was also discussed about how to handle when staff member come in sick or travels outside the state. Jessica will look into Covid Policy with the FCRA.

Accept the resignation of Jessica Stocker: Tabled until the November meeting

Old Business:

Conversion from calendar year to fiscal year: The committee met drafted a timeline. Twice a year tax payment has been suggested. The committee will meet again.

DPW Report:

Operations and Finance: Ricky has been busy mowing the east/west roads while Mike has been ditching and hauling winter sand.

Bridge & Culvert Reports:

Lake Street Culvert: There will be no Class II or Structure Grants next year, we may have to pursue other avenues to complete this project.

Mountain Road Culvert: Tree cutting on the project has been started by Munson Earth Moving while they are waiting for the culvert to arrive. Tim signed the Stream & Alterations Wetland Permit.

Basin Harbor Road Culvert: Brett submitted proposed construction grant to Dubois & King. The State has not given the right of way approval. The Town needs to update culvert inspections on the State website.

Rattlin Bridge Road: We need to go with a taller arch than anticipated. This will make the bottom narrower. David needs more information from Brett.

Middle Road Bridge: Someone from Otter Creek looked at the abatement and found no obvious problems. Tim will follow up with Dusty & Ashley if the State needs anything else.

Middle Road Culvert: Nothing to report

Financing of Projects: We are waiting on Chris from the National Bank of Middlebury.

Executive Session: No Executive Session.

Adjourn: Joan made a motion to adjourn, Jessica seconded. Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm

Respectfully Submitted,