**Bridport Selectboard Meeting**

**Monday, December 13, 2021**

**Town Office 6pm**

PRESENT: Tim Howlett (remote), David Bronson, Bob Sunderland, Steve Huestis, Joan Huestis Also Present: Julie Howlett (Town Clerk, remote), Kathleen King (Town Treasurer), Dusty Huestis (Road Foreman), Rick Scott ( Maple Broadband),

Mike Sheets (Maple Broadband), Keith Betourney

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

**Public Comment**: Rick Scott & Mike Sheets representing Maple Broadband asked the Town to consider giving $40,000 of ARPA money to Maple Broadband to help bring internet to every home in the State. 83% of Bridport is unserviced or underserved. Keith Betourney spoke about his concern for permits that were appro ved for the building of new homes with the intent of the old homes being removed and resulting in zoning violations.

**Secretary’s Report: Treasurers Report:**  David made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 8 & 17, 2021 Selectboard meeting. Steve seconded, Joan abstained from approving the November 17th minutes, motion passed.

**Bills to be paid:** Bob made a motion to pay bills in the amount of $618,851.35. Steve seconded, motion passed.

**DPW: Operations & Finance:**  DPW has been busy sanding and salting the roads. Dusty would like to purchase a crack sealer with Shoreham, Addison & Weybridge sharing the cost. Deb Peters requested yellow and white lines to be painted on Middle Rd.

**Culvert & Bridge Report:**

**Lake Street Culvert:** Project is finished.

**Basin Harbor Road Culvert:** Waiting for state approval on the last change order.

**Rattlin Bridge Road:** The project is moving forward.

**Middle Road Bridge**: Waiting on contract from Parent.

**Middle Road Culverts:** Informational meeting went well.

**Financing of Projects**: No discussion.

**New Business**

**Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom:** Joan made a motion to not sign the Public Right of Way as it is currently written. Bob seconded, motion passed. Dusty will follow up with Waitsfield for the change.

**Approve Pratt’s Liquor License:** Joan made a motion to approve Pratt’s Store liquor license. Bob seconded, motion passed.

**Mask Mandate:** Steve made a motion to not impose a mask mandate in town. Bob seconded, motion passed.

**Ballots for 2022:**  The Town will not send ballots to everyone on the checklist and we will keep the policy of requiring voters to request a ballot.

**Delinquent Tax Interest:** It was suggested to change the date interest begins on delinquent taxes to November 11th. David will propose an article for the next meeting.

**Appointed Position Advertising:** Julie will advertise appointed positions in the Addison Independent and Facebook.

**Personnel:** This will be discussed in executive session.

**Old Business:**

**Financing debt on construction of highway garage and firehouse:** David made a motion to approve the Loan for $90,000.00 from the National Bank of Middlebury on the refinancing of the debt on construction of the highway garage and second firehouse. Steve seconded, motion passed. Joan made a motion to approve of the Loan for $60,000.00 from the Town of Bridport Cemetery Funds of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners on the refinancing of the debt on construction of the highway garage and second firehouse. Bob seconded, David abstained, motion passed.

**Budget:**  Budget is close to being finished. The Town will order the same number of town reports we ordered in 2019.

**ARPA**: Discussed during public comment**.**

**Policy Work on Substance Abuse**: We will work on this after Christmas.

**Policies and Procedures for Town Clerk Office:** Tabled until the next month’s meeting.

**Other Business:** No Other Business.

**Executive session:** Bob made the motion to enter into executive session. Steve, seconded motion passed. Entered Executive Session at 8:10pm.

**Adjourn:**

Respectfully Submitted,