

TOWN of BRIDPORT

Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2019



PRESENT: Joan Huestis (Chair), David Bronson, Tim Howlett, Mike Lawton

Also Present: Julie Howlett (Town Clerk), Irene Zaccor (Treasurer), Jerry Forbes (Dog Catcher), Dusty Huestis (DPW Foreman), Dexter Oliver, Katie Welch

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Joan Huestis.

Public Comment

Dexter Oliver spoke about the hemp drying facility that is in the building next to his house. There is a very strong odor and lots of activity. He asked if Ed Payne is aware of this and do the hemp owners need a Conditional Use permit for this activity. Julie will check with Ed.

Secretary's Report

Tim made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 15 & 28 meetings. Mike seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Irene presented bills totaling \$2,012,935.84. Most of this is the amount we need to pay to the school district. Tim moved to accept the report as presented. Joan seconded, motion passed.

DPW Report

Rattlin Bridge Road has been closed since the October 31st storm. The Town has written a letter to the State asking to rent a bridge but we have not heard anything yet. It might take months to declare the storm a disaster, Joan will call to find out where we stand. It has been estimated that it will cost between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000.00 to fix the bridge. It will take a couple of years before this project will be completed. Since the State has not given us an answer on renting a bridge, we will begin looking into other places that rent bridges. There will be some trees taken down on Windy Valley Road this week.

Culvert Report

We are in the Right of Way and Stream Alteration stage of this project. We are waiting for Benjamin Putnam's title work page to go with the right of way.

Old Business

Zoning Fees: Joan and Ed Payne met to discuss an increase in Zoning Fees. Joan presented a list of fees which included a \$25.00 increase to all fees and added new fee for legal ads which would be \$25.00 and a 911 fee of \$50.00. Tim moved to accept the \$25.00 increase to all Zoning Fees and add the new legal ad fee but reject the 911 fee. These fees will take effect Jan 1, 2020. Joan seconded, motion passed.

Dog Ordinance: David & Julie worked on the Dog Ordinance Policy. Everyone worked on the Ordinance and changed a few things. David will rewrite the Ordinance with the changes and present it to the Board at the next meeting.

Masonic Hall/Community Hall Insulation: David received a quote from Black Diamond in the amount of \$2,280.00 for dense pack insulation. Mike made a motion to have Black Diamond insulate the stage area of the building approving up to \$2,500.00. Tim seconded, motion passed.

Community Suppers Contract for Community Hall: Katie Welch came to the meeting to find out the status of the insurance policy for the Community Suppers. The Town received an insurance policy from the Grange which added The Town to their policy. After David spoke with the insurance company, the policy does extend the liability to the Grange for functions at the Community Hall. Debbie Ploof will sign the contract for the use of the Community Hall.

Barb Wagner Craft Fair: Barb Wagner is requesting to use the Community Hall for her craft fair at last year's rental rate which was \$200.00 for 4 days. Mike moved to allow her to rent it this year for the \$200.00 but next year she will have to rent it at the \$75.00 a day price. Tim seconded, Joan abstained, motion passed.

Town Office Computers: Charlie Bain is requesting to take the office computers home to download the new Windows software. It will take all day to download and it is easier if he does it at night or over a weekend so not to interrupt office work. Joan made the motion to allow Charlie to take the computers home to install the updates. Tim seconded, motion passed.

Other Business:

Cemeteries Update: Over the last 4 years the Cemetery Board has worked on cleaning, straightening and replacing stones in all 4 cemeteries. Wells, Pine Hill and Townline cemeteries are finished and they will now concentrate on Central Cemetery. The Edla Brown Trust left the Central Cemetery \$22,800.00 from her estate for the up keep of the Central Cemetery only. David said he would suggest to the Cemetery Board for its approval that in the 2020 budget the amount the Town gives the Cemeteries be \$1500.00 instead of \$6000.00 and Central Cemetery pay \$2000.00 for mowing instead of \$1000.00.

Hire an Assessor: Kermit has informed Joan that as of January 1st he will no longer be working for Bridport as the Town Assessor. Julie has emailed a few Appraisal companies. Joan made the motion that we start looking for a new Assessor. Tim seconded, motion passed.

Discuss Hemp: Julie and Irene have noticed a strong smell of hemp in the Village as well as having other towns asking what our Hemp policy is. We do not have a hemp policy and it has been suggested to them that the Town should have one. Earlier in the evening Dexter Oliver talked about the Hemp drying facility next to his house. At this time no action was taken.

Firehouse #2 passage door and overhead door: The Firehouse needs a new passage door and the overhead doors need rubber on the bottom. It was decided that this is maintenance and just go ahead and have it fixed.

Multiple Sclerosis Letter: The board was presented with a letter from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society asking permission to use our roads for their annual Bike MS event. Joan made a motion to approve and sign the letter. Tim seconded, motion passed.

2020 Budget: It was decided that the Selectboard will meet on Tuesday, December 3rd at 6pm to start working on the budget.

Other Business: Julie will purchase new smoke detectors and a carbon monoxide detector for the Masonic Hall/Community Hall.

Adjourn: Joan made the motion to adjourn, Tim seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

