

Selectboard Minutes 12/02/2019

Members Present: Bard Hill, Katie Mather, Christy Witters, David Sander
Absent: Roger Brown

Others Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Larry Muldoon, Police Chief; Pete Gosselin, Highway; Kendall Chamberlain, Water & Sewer; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15, also attending - Mary Houle; Dan Noyes; Max Krieger; Steve Palmer, Green Mountain Engineering; Caitlin Littlefield; Stefani Hartsfield; Jeffrey Fay; Lisa Curtis; Budd Elliott; Katherine Gluck; Jared Katz; Shannon Dofour-Martinez; Tracy Rosen; Branden Roberts, VHB; and Karen Yaggy.

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

David welcomed everyone to the meeting, there was no public comment.

I. Additions or deletions -none

II. Items for Presentation:

a) Vote on appointment of Max Krieger to the Conservation Commission

Max Krieger introduced himself and provided information about his background and interest in conservation stating he's eager to work with the Commission. After a brief discussion Christy moved to appoint Max to the Conservation Commission, Bard seconded the motion. All were in favor.

b) Request by Dan Noyes to approve a 30' Right of Way to access a new subdivision at RR0198

Dan stated he would like to build 3 commercial lots on property he now owns. The access would be Railroad Street, which he owns, and has previously provided the Richmond Rescue with a right of way to the end. Dan stated he can't proceed with the DRB until he gets waiver from the Selectboard reducing the right of way from 60' to 30'. Dan noted that the current Railroad Street right of way is 24'.

The discussion revolved around the existing road with Kendal, Pete and Josh indicating they saw no problem with the right of way being 30' as it conforms to the existing road.

Bard moved to grant permission to approve the 30' right of way, Christy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

c) Presentation from Richmond Conservation Commission of the Conservation Reserve Fund

Bob Low gave a presentation outlining the Richmond Conservation Commission's request for the residents to vote at Town Meeting, by Australian Ballot, to renew the Conservation Reserve Fund financed by .01 tax. Bob thought the wording for the ballot should be reviewed to be certain it was still appropriate.

Bard made a motion to put the Richmond Conservation Commission request for funding before the voters by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day and provide time for a presentation, Christy seconded. All were in favor.

It was further discussed that the presentation should be available on the Town website in advance for residents to review.

d) Discussion of the construction work on Bridge St. scheduled for Spring/Summer 2020
Scheduling, traffic, parking

Steve Palmer from Green Mountain Engineering came to give a presentation and answer questions related to the Bridge Street project. Steve's presentation included information on how issues related to the major construction would be addressed. Among the topics were: vehicle & pedestrian traffic, parking, and business deliveries. In short, the project will reduce Bridge St. to one lane over the bridge and two lanes with no parking on the upper portion of Bridge Street, jersey barriers will be used, the sidewalk on one side of the street will be torn up, the pedestrian walk on the bridge will be closed, and parking will be impacted.

To address concerns the following information was provided: there may be flaggers for traffic control at various points, including the corner of Railroad Street to allow large truck access and for turn around on the bridge for the moving of equipment & materials, otherwise traffic signals will be used to manage traffic flow. Pleasant street access may require negotiating with the bank and having a flagger to direct traffic through the bank parking lot. Larry stated that having a flagger at the route 2 intersection would not be as effective as the light itself because it is computer controlled in a way that allows for fluctuations in traffic by automatically readjusting itself. Alternative suggestions for parking included using municipal parking at the top of Bridge Street and having Greensea employees park at the Catholic Church. Parking will be a problem. Stefani Hartsfield asked if there would be crossing guards for children who walk to school. It was decided that the school would be the best avenue for volunteers if crossing guards were deemed necessary.

Construction is estimated to last 60-90 days. The bridge will be one lane for 45-60 days. Construction is not planned to be 7 days a week but will be up to the contractor with work beginning at 7am and extending to 9pm. It is imperative that the project be completed and invoiced by mid-September to remain eligible for 50% loan forgiveness on the water project. Construction on both projects will be done simultaneously.

e) Update Dugway Road

Josh reported that there were 4 bids received for the engineering work ranging in prices from \$49,500 to \$151,826. The two lowest bids were within \$10,000 of each other and the two highest within \$20,000 of each other.

There was a discussion about whether or not to fix the road and whether or not it was necessary to have a concrete wall. The majority of the residents, in attendance, some of which live on Dugway Road, were in favor of reopening the road as opposed to installing cul-de-sacs with a parking lot between them for gorge usage. Residents wanted to have some assurance that speed and large truck usage would be addressed before the road reopened and the Selectboard agreed to have a meeting closer to that time to address those concerns as well as adding Dugway to the traffic study currently considered. The concrete wall was determined to be necessary to stabilize the road as all four contractors recommended it.

Josh continued going through the bids noting that East Engineering has done a number of successful projects for the Town and reminding everyone that we had signed a PO to have them do the work, then had to do RFP to be eligible for FEMA funding. Pete was in agreement.

Josh said that when called he called East Engineering to discuss the bid he was assured that East Engineering would be providing all the same checks and balances as the larger firms and that the difference in prices had to do with economy of scale.

Bard made a motion to approve the East Engineering bid of \$49,500., Christy seconded. All were in favor.

III. Other business

a) Vote on approval to apply for Data Across Sectors for Health Grant to fund staff for VT Youth Program.

Stephanie Hartsfield gave a snapshot of how the funding could bring stakeholders together by having a staff person coordinating programs. She indicated that this person would not be a Town employee and would have no benefits. The idea is to bring the community together in a unified way. The project director would have to be Josh, he could have co-directors that are not associated with the Town who would do the actual grant writing. As far as Stephanie knew no other Vermont towns were applying for the Robert Wood Johnson Grant request which is due Dec. 6.

Katie asked if Stephanie had any interest in putting something together for a funded recreation program. Stephanie responded that the program currently being considered with grant money could act like a pilot program for that, stating there is a need for data and results first.

Bard made a motion to have allow the application for the grant from Robert Wood Johnson to be made, Katie seconded. All were in favor.

b) Vote on approval of Cannabis Resolution from VLCT

Christy made a motion to approve the Cannabis Resolution from VLCT, Bard seconded. All were in favor.

c) Follow up on pay grid discussion

Josh reported that the internal look at the pay grid is in the planning stage with the basic idea being to start with positions that seem to be the most off. He reported that at the staff meeting employees were looking for commitment from Selectboard to address inequities and that having someone from the Selectboard working on the project might help.

The discussion that followed brought the following thoughts forward:

-Is it realistic to stay at a 2% increase in light of salary adjustments and health care costs?

-The Town has been through analyzing employee compensation 3 times previously without bringing employees up to the level that the studies recommended and that it is demoralizing and sends a bad message to employees.

-Bringing the increases to the voters may have to happen understanding the budget could get voted down.

On Dec. 9 there is another Selectboard meeting at 7PM for the purpose of working on the Town budget where the discussion will continue.

d) Attendance at the CCRPC Legislative Breakfast Dec. 10

An invitation to attend the CCRPC Legislative Breakfast has been received. Josh & Roger are planning to attend. Bard mentioned that we should keep our momentum going on the topic of the absence of a pedestrian & bike path to park & ride. Josh agreed.

e) Reminder of Special Meeting of Selectboard on Dec. 9 to work on the FY21 budget
David reminded everyone of the special Selectboard meeting on Dec. 9.

f) Update on hiring process for Town Planner

Josh said he's hoping to finalize plans this week.

IV. Approval of Minutes, Warrants & Purchase Orders

Christy made a motion to approve PO #3851 in the amount of \$1,624,716.08, to the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District for quarterly taxes, Katie seconded. All were in favor.

Bard made a motion to approve PO #3850 in the amount of \$79,636.50, to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for Workmen's Comp Insurance & PACIF, Katie second. All were in favor.

Bard made a motion to approve the Minutes of 11-18-19, Katie seconded. All were in favor.

Warrants were approved and signed.

V. Discuss Items for next agenda & adjourn

Dugway Road – weight limit discussed later in the process

Christy made a motion to adjourn, Katie seconded. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:40 PM