

Present

Selectboard:

David Jones (Chair)
Gwen Tanza
Joseph Dutton
Bruce Mello

Town Officers:

Guy Tanza (Town Clerk, videographer)
Mark Bills (Road Supervisor)

Members of the Public:

Archie Clark
Leeann Parker
Dan Towler
FACTV

(Meeting transcribed from sound recording)

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Review changes to agenda if any

Review and vote on proposed rules
There was consensus in favor.

Scheduled members of the public

(none)

Unscheduled members of the public

(none)

Review and vote on proposed rules

Mr. Dutton discussed the rules and procedures under the pandemic emergency, some seeming redundant, some specific to the online setting. Mr. Jones suggested modifications, proposing to eliminate overlapping or redundant points already in the adopted Rules of Procedure; and polled the members. It was suggested to rename the list as “additional rules for hybrid online meetings.” There was consensus in favor.

Mr. Jones moved to adopt the provided document from paragraph 6 to the end, as “Brookline Selectboard Additional Rules for Hybrid Online Meetings”. Second by Ms. Tanza. All in Favor.

Approve Minutes

A. Minutes from August 5, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes for August 5, 2020, as amended. Second by Mr. Mello. All in Favor.

New Business

A. SLP Painting/Staining Bids

Mr. Jones noted three bids, and highlighted specifications in each:

Vendor	Description	Amount
David Shaw, Windsor, Vermont	Start Sept 12, 2020, tarps, pressure wash, spray, cleanup, etc.	\$5,940
Norm Holden	Exterior painting to specs, equipment and materials supplied by the Town of Brookline	\$16,000
Momaney Painting	Lead abatement at 624 Grassy Brook Road, licensed.	\$14,500

Mr. Jones asked whether the proposals were all for similar specifications. Mr. Mello discussed the vendors. Ms. Tanza asked whether it was significant that only one vendor mentions lead paint. Mr. Mello noted that Mr. Momaney had tested for and found lead paint and in various places; that this was unexpected.

Mr. Mello noted other painting work in the area done by Momaney and by Holden; and discussed materials costs and the need for a generator or compressor; and other equipment considerations. Mr. Dutton cited questions about the benefit of the town providing equipment to a contractor; and about the cost quoted by a vendor for a lift that could be obtained at lower cost; and discussed costs with regard to budgets generally. Mr. Jones noted that lead abatement certification would be an absolute requirement.

The matter was tabled by unanimous consent, until September 2.

B. Meetinghouse Historic Building Registry

Mr. Jones noted a document from the historic preservation consultant and introduced Mr. Towler (BMH Committee). Mr. Towler noted that the building was not on the National Register of Historic Buildings, “Administered by the National Park Service, the National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, building, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.” Mr. Towler had looked up buildings in Windham County and found that the Round Schoolhouse had been added to the Register in 1977, and the old Brick Church in Athens in 1979; the only other local structure being the iron bridge over the West River; he had called the division for Historic Preservation in Montpelier, and found that the building has never been nominated; the officer referred Mr. Towler to the State Historian, who was familiar but had not seen the building, but had an appointment the Dutton Farmhouse, and visited the building; and recommended working with an Historic Consultant familiar with the National Register program and listing process, to prepare the application properly. Mr. Towler had been given a list of consultants, two in Windham County, one of whom responded. Mr. Towler suggested that registration might possibly be seen as a positive attribute in grant applications or other fundraising efforts; that there are no additional layers of restriction related to registration. Mr. Towler noted that the fee for the Historic consultation would be \$5,100 and that the Committee was unanimous in favor of the expenditure.

Mr. Jones noted that the proposal from Paula Sagerman requires payment at a pace that is not feasible for a municipality’s budget cycle; and polled

the members. There was discussion of the age of the building; the costs when applying for grants and matching grants; eligibility for Federal grants; Ms. Jillson's help in acquiring a \$3,000 grant from the Windham Foundation, which will go toward restoration of the steeple; and the members expressed gratitude for Mr. Towler's efforts on behalf of the Town.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Meeting House Committee spending \$1,500 for the Historic Preservation Consultant's work preparing the nomination of the Meeting House to the National Register. Second by Mr. Mellow. All in Favor.

C. Recycling Site

Mr. Jones explained a situation in which the dumpster had been opened. Mr. Tanza had consulted Triple T Trucking about ways to prevent this vandalism; that the costs may exceed the budget. Mr. Jones noted that the costs had been received indicating that last fiscal year the costs were below \$18,000; that this year's budget was for \$22,000; that the tonnage fee has gone up to \$152.00; that money has been budgeted for cleaning up the site; and suggested that the Town might consider paying someone to maintain the site. There was discussion. It was noted that Mr. Tanza's efforts help in keeping the site from further unauthorized dumping. Mr. Jones noted that the Town had voted at Town Meeting to continue maintaining the site, and that Mr. Tanza need not be burdened with this thankless recurring chore. There was discussion. It was noted that others occasionally tidy up.

D. VSP Letter

Mr. Jones summarized the letter; that the State Police are seeking feedback on state policing practices; and polled the members; it was noted that more police presence would be desirable; that there have been incidents of speeding; that in light of national events, more dialog or community-style policing, direct communication with the people of Vermont would be helpful; that being isolated geographically from police support has been a source of local anxiety. Mr. Jones suggested drafting a letter in response, and will start this process. Mr. Bills discussed traffic signage and speeding issues, encouraging the police to visit at more likely times for speeding violations.

Old Business

A. Building Update

Mr. Mello discussed installing air conditioning in the Town Offices; consultation with Mr. Haskins about powder-post beetles in the Round Schoolhouse and treatment with linseed oil; the mold, cobwebs; a solar de-humidifier. There was discussion of the Historical Society, which had not met since the pandemic emergency. Mr. Mello discussed electricity and heat in the three buildings; and the window project, nearing completion; that the dumpster at the school had been cleaned up by the tenant. Mr. Dutton asked about cost overruns on the window project; there was discussion. Mr. Mello will follow up with the actual costs.

B. Education Tax Rate/Tax Bill Status

It was noted that the Tax Rate has not been released, but is expected soon; Mr. Jones discussed the timing of tax bills and collection dates. Mr. Tanza noted that it is normally November, February and May. Mr. Jones asked about Warning the date. Mr. Tanza suggested checking with the VLCT and will follow up. Mr. Jones noted the possible need for an emergency meeting in this matter if under deadline constraints.

Summary / Update / Reports

A. Guy Tanza - Town Clerk Report

State primary, August 11, 135 voters, 85 were absentee ballots; expecting a large turnout for the general election; people may vote in person with precautions; or use the absentee ballot. Mr. Jones noted that absentee ballots must follow the same rules if dropped off in person or mailed in. Mr. Tanza noted that there had been five defective ballots because the envelope was not filled out and signed.

Highways & Roads

A. Mark Bills - Road Supervisor

Mr. Bills discussed culvert inventory, going well with the rental machine, accomplishing many items on the general list; three signs in one year for Ellen Ware Road; heard from the paving and milling contractors, met with the paving contractor, scheduled for mid-September; the milling contractor will be coordinating through Mr. Clark with the milling company; and the rental machine had been very useful cleaning culverts and repairing erosion efficiently. There was discussion of the machine and the rental company.

Communications

A. Email

- Jeff Nugent, WRC, re: stormwater municipal road permit fee was not paid (\$500; had been addressed, and the grants had not yet been awarded)

B. Regular Mail

- VLCT re: virtual town fair event
- To Mike Fontaine, for emergency supplies

Pay Orders

Mr. Jones noted that for efficiency he will not ask members as many questions about reviewing, etc., but would ask members if they had any questions about the Warrants.

B. Payroll

Mr. Jones moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2020-60, dated August 19, 2020, in the amount of \$1,550.10. Second by Mr. Mello. All in Favor.

A. Accounts Payable

Mr. Jones polled the members

Mr. Jones moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #2020-59, dated August 18, 2020, in the amount of \$21,225.22. Second by Mr. Mello. All in Favor.

Set agenda for the next meeting, Wednesday September 2, 2020

- Salt and sand shed, presentation by Ron Bell
- SLP Painting and Staining Bids
- Prepare Plowing and Sand Bids for publication

Adjournment

Mr. Mello motioned to Adjourn. Second by Ms. Tanza. All in Favor.
The meeting was Adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, August 26, 2020