

Present

Selectboard: David Jones (Chair), Bruce Mello, Gwen Tanza

Town Officers: Guy Tanza (videographer)

(Minutes taken by transcription from video)

Call the meeting to order

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

Review changes to agenda if any

Changes contingent upon further arrivals.

Tabled: Town Meeting recap and Policies/Procedures, for meeting TBD.

SLP Update.

Scheduled members of the public

Mr. Clark not in attendance

Unscheduled members of the public

Approve Minutes

Minutes from March 4, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Jones moved to Approve the minutes for March 4, 2020. Second by Ms. Tanza. **All in Favor.**

Old Business

Paving/Grinding RFPs

Mr. Jones noted that numbers and locations were stripped from the RFP; copies had been distributed; these are not bids, but estimates for informational purposes; separate estimates from Arlington Paving on paving and on grinding; and that A. S. Clark provided an estimate on removal of the road materials ("the hump," previously discussed). There was discussion of oil prices and other considerations. Mr. Jones suggested giving more time for submissions under present circumstances; and that more deliberation should be given to the "hump" project.

Mr. Jones suggested a separate RFP would be needed if it is decided to proceed with removal of the road material.

Further discussion Tabled until the April meeting.

Road Equipment Purchase Next Steps

Absent Committee members, Tabled.

WRC Broadband Project Update

Mr. Jones noted that the Survey is closed; email has been received from the manager suggesting it is sufficient for an informed decision. There was discussion of anticipated percentages and goals.

New Business

Town Meeting Recap – Tabled

Policies/Procedures – Tabled

Strolling of the Heifers Bike Race

Mr Tanza had expected a call from the organizers; none forthcoming to date. Mr. Jones noted a checklist concerning liabilities.

SLP Update

Mr. Mello discussed the fire alarm phonenumber bill, noting he had requested the full bill, which was received; \$76.00 had been requested; Mr. Mello's figures reflect closer to \$41.86. There was discussion of original documentation; Mr. Tanza noted that the fire alarm line is the responsibility of the Town. There was discussion of the order to close; and the suggestion that lease payments be waived for the duration of the order; and of state actions that may be taken to relieve financial pressures; of delaying payment due dates; that it is as yet unclear whether there will be emergency compensation, or how it would be allocated. Mr. Tanza recommended postponing tenant's due dates, and that tenant determine whether there might be insurance coverage in this area.

Mr. Jones moved that the Selectboard advise Susie's Little Peanuts that their rent for April will not be due until April 15, 2020, and that the Selectboard will re-evaluate the situation further on April 1, 2020. Second by Ms. Tanza. **All in Favor.**

Mr. Mello discussed suspending all work on the building during the emergency, other than what is necessary.

Summary / Update / Reports

Guy Tanza - Town Clerk Report

Mr. Tanza noted that he had arranged for announcement on the website that the Town Clerk's office is open for business for normal business hours; and that the possibility of moving operations online would be evaluated on a daily basis; and suggested that the Town suspend any meetings in the Town Office; that this does not preclude meetings,

and that all meetings would have to follow the Open Meeting Law; but that until further notice meetings should not be held in the Town Office.

Ms. Tanza inquired about dog licensing; Mr. Tanza noted that the law must be followed, and the Secretary of State should be consulted on whether the Town has the prerogative to change the fee schedule; and that licensing can be handled by mail.

Mr. Jones moved that all meetings at the Town Office other than Selectboard meetings be suspended until further notice. Second by Mr. Mello. **All in Favor.**

Mr. Tanza noted that the West River Modified Unified Education District vote scheduled for March 25, 2020, had been canceled; further instruction from the school board are anticipated; that clarification on the procedural impact of this was anticipated, with regard to scheduling a new vote.

Highways & Roads

Mark Bills - Road Supervisor

Mr. Jones expressed the Selectboard's gratitude to Mr. Bills and Mr. Clark, and others who helped in dealing with the mud, particularly on Whitney Hill Road; and noted the expressions of thanks received from residents.

Communications

Email

Mr. Jones discussed the unusually high volume of email. There was discussion of Internet access and a survey response by the Town; and that WRC and VLCT are working to have the Open Meeting law updated to accommodate the emergency

Regular Mail

- Trainings for town health officers

Mr. Jones noted that Town Health Officers have no role in the current pandemic; that residents concerned for their health should call their primary providers or 911.

- Washburn Vault Co. – advertizement
- Vt Rural Protection Task Force – fire hydrant grants etc.
- Vt Rural Water Association – local events
- VTRANS – tranings

Pay Orders

Accounts Payable

There was discussion of one of the items; this will be determined before checks are cut; discrepancy (if any) will be amended next meeting.

- Mr. Jones moved to approve Accounts Payable #2020-37, dated March 17, 2020, in the amount of \$35,580.88.
Second by Mr. Mello. **All in Favor.**

Payroll

- Mr. Jones moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2020-38, dated March 18, 2020, in the amount of \$1,541.82.
Second by Mr. Mello. **All in Favor.**

Set agenda for the next meeting – Wednesday April 1, 2020

- Pay Orders
- SLP rents
- Paving and Grinding RFP

Mr. Jones noted that technology for online meetings will be implemented as soon as possible.

Adjournment

Mr. Jones moved to Adjourned. Second by Mr. Mello. All in Favor.
The meeting was Adjourned at 7:19PM.

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