

Select board Meeting

January 21, 2021

7:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Present were Fact TV, Janet Perry, Matt Perry, Hannah Regier, Darlene Wyman, Don Capponcelli, Dennis Mirante, Tina White, April Lyman, Denise Randall, Amber Stevens, Ted Reeves, Tim Stevenson, Dan Taylor, David Bemis, Jim Trimble, Donna Currier, Sherry Maher, Lynn Morgan, Bonnie Hitchcock, Krista Gay, Mark Treinkman, and Robert Fisher.

David called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Adjustments to the agenda: There were no adjustments.

Minutes: Darlene stated there were corrections to the December 29 meeting. Denise made the motion to accept the December 17 minutes and the December 29 minutes as corrected. David seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Public Comments: Dan asked if after a storm the Town would sand Taylor Hill. Dan asked since it is okay for individuals to get sand if he could use his loader and sander to get sand at the garage. Denise stated that as long as the residents paid taxes she couldn't see any reason why they couldn't use the sand. David stated that individuals could use the sand to sand their driveways. Jim stated he did not have an issue with it. David stated he did not have an issue with it. Dan asked about the town sanding the road. David stated since it is private road, the town does not sand private roads. David asked Matt what he felt about this. Matt stated he was okay with it as long as the board agreed to it. Darlene commented there were two weight permits that needed to be signed by David. She left them on the table. Dennis asked how Taylor Hill had been sanded in the past. It was done by the residents of the Hill and Dan used his own sand. Mark asked why the sand couldn't be loaded with the town equipment. David stated the town equipment was not used to load sand for individuals. Sherry stated she was involved with the Athenian and asked about special meetings. She asked about how people were being notified about these meetings and she would like to be put on the list to getting notices out in the Athenian. David stated meetings were posted on the town website and it is posted in three places in the Town.

Budget Review: Hannah stated she had emailed the budget to the select board and the budget committee. She stated the changes that were made since the last meeting were adding \$1,000.00 for training for the road crew which will be put under the town highway garage. She added \$3,000.00 for interest from delinquent taxes in revenue and added \$6,300.00 to the grader to cover the tires. She also added a surplus/deficit line with \$45,000.00. Janet had asked the board if they were considering making an increase in pay for the highway wages and did not

hear back so the wages were left as they were. Denise made the motion to accept the budget as presented for the Town Report. David seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Boards and Officials: Lynn stated the board has passed the budget for the school, but it needs correcting. She stated the board was having a special meeting tomorrow and will get the warning to Darlene by January 25th. David asked Lynn about the article for the vote for Westminster leaving the union whether it was a town district vote and a school vote. David also asked about the electing of the school board directors. Discussion followed. Lynn stated she would get back to David on these. Sherry stated the Meetinghouse had submitted a grant with the town and the historic society sort of partnering in this grant to the Paul H. Bruhn fund. The Meetinghouse committee is hoping to get monies from this grant to match money the committee has available to be used for painting the exterior and restoring the windows. The goal is to start this project this summer. She also stated the committee had received through the historic society a sizable donation from a private foundation which will help significantly to move forward with this plan. Denise asked if the Meetinghouse committee had any plans for repaying the loan from the town. Sherry stated they are still working on trying to get the building up to a standard where they would be able to generate some income from it and be able to use it to help pay back the loan. Tim thanked Matt for getting the emergency trailer registered. The emergency committee has two new members- Wichie Artu and Tina White. He also stated they have lost three people-Lois Sipple, Bev Hutchins and Gordon Pugh. The committee are in the process of getting a letter out to the entire town containing a statement of what the committee is about and basically they are concerned with weather emergencies. They have renamed the committee the Athens Weather Emergency Committee. There is a brief outline of the things they do. On the back of the letter will be a contact list of who to contact in an emergency. Tim stated they have also reestablished contact with the American Red Cross. Hannah stated a couple of people had asked about video recordings of the video meetings. She looked at our google subscription and they've changed the features that they give out for each level of subscription and we no longer have that feature. If it was important to be able to record these meetings, we would have to pay twice as much per user per month. Denise asked if Fact TV was recording the meeting. David said it was his understanding that they were.

Taylor Hill: David stated we had a meeting last Thursday, Jan. 14, where the board went into executive session to discuss the report from the engineer that was given to the town. The board had questions which they gave to the attorney who transmitted them to Bob Fisher. David asked if he had received these questions. Bob Fisher stated he received an email with some questions regarding the report and whether Ted had picked the test pit sights or whether the folks on the road had and there was concern that people on the road had written parts of the engineer report. He felt Ted Reeves could answer these questions. Michael Tarrant also had questions regarding the survey. He stated the idea of having a survey would be done if an agreement could be reached with the town. He stated it doesn't make sense to spend money until such time an agreement can be reached as to for instance what culverts were getting replaced, how much gravel is being put on and those particular matters. He let Michael know

this and if it goes to court a survey is part of the road being taken over by the town. He felt other details should be discussed before talking about the survey. David stated there were more questions and he wasn't sure if these had been transmitted to Bob and didn't want to discuss them at the meeting to open it up for questions and answers. David would rather have it in writing between Bob and Michael so everyone could have it and see it. Bob asked that Michael be specifically ask those questions. Bob stated in looking at his email Michael had asked about a traffic study. Bob stated a traffic study had not been done by the residents of Taylor Hill nor in his view is that required for a road to be taken over under title 19. Michael asked the question as to what is the reason the culverts wouldn't be replaced prior to the road becoming a town highway and he felt Mr. Reeves could speak to that. Bob asked if there were more questions and so if they could adequately respond to them, Michael be asked to list them out and they would respond to them. Bob stated he asked Michael if he would be able to speak at this meeting and for the record, Michael did give consent for Bob to speak at the meeting despite him not being in on the meeting. David stated there were more questions and will contact Michael to make sure they are all done and it would be better for everybody to have them in writing instead of trying to do it over a zoom meeting. David stated it would be reasonable and fair for everybody. Dan asked if the engineer report was public information. David stated it was. Bob stated they had no problem with the report being public. Bob asked Mr. Reeves address some of the questions tonight. David stated he would like to get to a resolution as soon as we can, but prefer the questions and answers be in writing. Krista asked if Mr. Reeves would be able to answer the questions that were brought up and the lawyer could also put them in writing because there were people there who would like to hear the answers instead of having to come back week after week. Krista asked the questions about who wrote the report and who dug the test holes are yes/no questions that could be answered here. Mr. Reeves responded that the section in the report on the history of the road he asked April to help him and he had a footnote stating he had asked April for help. He also stated he selected the sights for the test holes and did not have any input from the residents on Taylor Hill. When he was looking for spots to dig the test holes he was looking specifically for places where they might encounter ledge or that there might be water present. The last test hole he picked was because it was on the fill portion of the initial section of the hill and he wanted to make sure there was decent material underneath the road bed and didn't encounter ledge or a clay layer under there. He stated he had no influence or input from anybody on Taylor Hill. Jim asked about the issue of getting agreements or deeds all the way through the road. Bob stated they had not at this point. Again the deeds would be one of the last things that would need to be done along with the survey. Denise stated there was concern that last week someone mentioned Taylor Hill is a new road and has to meet new road standards so wasn't quite sure where we were on that. David stated he wasn't sure if this was one of the questions and would get this in writing. Tina asked if they were going to be held to a different road standard why wasn't it put into the final decision on August 25th. The August 25th decision stated they needed to be held to the state standard which is what Ted did his report on and now Denise is mentioning they may be held to a new road standard. David stated there is no difference in the

standards. Denise stated it is the same standard, but what the discussion was is Taylor Hill is a new road to the town even though it's been established for a while and so it has to be up to the road standards. Denise stated it was just a matter of wording. Bob stated that Mr. Reeves report stated it does meet the town roads specifications that the town set forth. Sherry asked the question since she is not a resident of Taylor Hill but has been interested in the discussion of Taylor Hill how anyone can be aware or informed of what is happening with the road. David stated anyone could get information on this at the town office.

Warning: The board then worked on getting the warning ready for the Town Report. David asked if there were any new voted articles. Darlene stated we did not receive any new ones, but still have the same ones as last year. The header was changed to show the meeting would be held by Australian ballot at the Town Office and the office would be open from 10:00am-7:00pm for voting. The Articles were discussed and changed to reflect the format for the Australian ballot. David made the motion to approve the warning as the board has worked on it and then add any corrections that may be needed. Darlene will send a copy of the warning to the board for any corrections. Denise seconded the motion. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Warrant: David made the motion the board sign the warrants individually at the Town office. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Roads: David asked Matt to explain the warranty for the Freightliner. Matt handed over to Janet. Janet stated she had looked into an extended warranty for the Freightliner. She found a plan to cover the truck up to 10 years old. It is a two year plan with different levels of cost and protection. The truck would have to be pre-approved before we can get the warranty. This will cost approximately \$200.00. Discussion followed as to what the plan covered and the costs. The truck will be pre-approved before buying into the plan. David made the motion to go with the two year plan for \$9,300.00 with no limits and pay it all up front. The funds will be taken out of the repair and maintenance fund for the Freightliner. David will sign any documents necessary. Jim seconded the motion. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Matt stated that everything was holding together. The road crew replaced two bearings on the Freightliner. The chains on the sander of the Ford were repaired. The salt consumption has dropped considerably with the new salt from Apalachee Salt.

Krista asked when it was the last day to sign the consent form for town officers. David stated it is January 25th by 5:00 pm. The forms can be picked up at the Town office or the clerk's home.

Sherry asked for a run down on where things stand with the consent forms for offices. Darlene stated we have had quite a few sign up and the only offices that are still available are the auditor, the school director and the Campbell fund trustee. Sherry asked if we had a consent form for the selectman. Darlene stated it was Dennis Mirante. Sherry asked if there would be any decisions made in executive session and if there would be an opportunity for the public to come back into the meeting. David stated if any decisions were made the public could come back into the meeting to hear it but didn't expect to be making any decisions. Discussion

followed as to how to leave the meeting and come back in. It was decided the board would have the executive session by phone conference.

Executive Session: At 8:52 pm, David made the motion to move into executive session to discuss a legal matter where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town of Athens at a substantial disadvantage. Denise seconded the motion. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

At 9:07 pm David made the motion to move out of executive session. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. No decisions were made in executive session. No motions were made.

Further Business: There being no further business David made the motion to adjourn. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Wyman, Town Clerk