

Select Board Meeting

June 18, 2020

7:00pm

Athens Town Office

Present were James Trimble, David Bemis, Denise Randall, Darlene Wyman, Matt Perry, Janet Perry, Dan Taylor, Sherry Maher, Tina White, Donna Currier, April Lyman and Dennis Mirante.

Adjustments to the Agenda: There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Minutes of the prior meeting: David made the motion to accept the minutes of the prior meeting. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Public comments: Tina asked if Matt would weed whack the triangle between Route 35 and Brookline Road and the top of Mill Hill. David also asked Matt to weed whack around the Town Office. Dennis commented the roads were being exceptionally well maintained this year and to give credit where credit was due to the road crew. Darlene wished to thank Sandi for doing a good job of cleaning the office.

Boards and Officials: Budget committee. Janet presented the prices for pre-buy fuel oil and diesel. HB Energy-\$1.99per gallon for fuel oil and they do not sell diesel. Bart Energy-\$2.15 per gallon for fuel oil and \$.15 per gallon over the rack price for diesel. Cota & Cota- \$2.11 for heating oil and no guarantees for diesel. Dead River-\$1.7383 per gallon for heating oil and \$1.9043 for diesel. This is a guaranteed price. James Oil-had no prices at this time and the diesel is not guaranteed. David made the motion to purchase heating oil and diesel from Dead River. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Denise will contact Dead River. Janet also stated the budget committee suggested cutting the budget by \$10,000.00 for salt, \$7,000.00 for guardrails, \$8,800.00 for crack sealing \$4,000.00 for the over the road mower and sickle bar mowing and \$1,000.00 for small culverts. David made the motion to put on hold the \$10,000.00 for salt, \$7,000.00 for guardrails, \$8,800.00 for crack sealing, \$4,000.00 for mowing, and \$1,000.00 for small culverts. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. David made the motion to put out to bid the resurfacing of Route 35 from the Townshend line to the new pavement and the culverts for Route 35. A special board meeting will be held July 2, 2020 at 7:00pm. The bids will be due on July 2, 2020 at 7:00pm and will be opened at this time. Denise seconded the motion. Put to a vote. The motion carried. David made the motion to put the \$32,000.00 for the garage bathroom on hold for this year. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Meetinghouse Committee: Sherry wished to thank the board for signing the letter for the grant for the Historical sign. This would replace the sign Marjorie Walker donated. Matt will install the sign if needed. The committee is still looking into the roadside signs. Don has not heard from the fabricator yet. Three contractors have visited the

site. The committee is waiting to hear back from them. The electricity for the project may be available from Jean Anderson. The committee agreed to reimburse her for the electricity for the month the project was done. The board asked Sherry to check with VLCT to see if the insurance would cover this. Sherry stated it was the Bemis' who cleaned up the wooden box at the end of Meetinghouse Road. Sherry spoke with Brian Lavoie about the clearing of trees from the Lavoie property at the corner of Meetinghouse Road and Route 35. Jay Maciejowski will mark the trees that would need clearing. Brian stated he wants the stone walls surrounding the area to stay intact and to clean up the material that was left after the drainage work was done. Brian will retain ownership of the property and keep it cleaned up going forward. Matt stated he would look into doing the work after he discusses it with Brian. The firewood will be given to Grafton Cares and stored at the Town garage. Denise stated the Town employees need to do the COVID 19 class and print out the certificate.

David made the motion to sign the contract from HB Energy for the generator maintenance. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

David made the motion to sign the Windham County Sheriff's contract for \$416.67 per month. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

David made the motion to sign the Windham County Humane Society contract. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Taylor Hill: David stated he contacted the attorney and he recommended the matter should not be discussed or negotiated with the appeal pending until it is resolved. Denise made the motion the Town take over Taylor Hill. The motion failed after David stated it would not be legal to do this and another hearing would have to be held. A lengthy discussion followed. Denise made the motion to she would contact the attorney and VLCT to see if another hearing would have to be held and Taylor Hill would be put on the July 2nd meeting agenda. If another hearing does not have to be held a vote may be taken. David seconded. Put to vote. The motion carried. David made the motion to accept the Service for Appeal of the decision for Taylor Hill and for Darlene to sign it. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Sherry asked if Fact TV would be taping future meetings.

Roads: Matt stated he received a grant from Windham Regional Commission to be used for stone lining the ditches on Valley Cemetery Road. He may need to rent an excavator. He will get prices for excavators with or without operators. The 20% from the Town may be used for kind services. The project needs to be done by October 15.

Executive Session: At 9:10 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. Put to a vote. The motion carried. At

9:35 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.

David made the motion the Town contact Paul Gillies to help with the legal matters of Taylor Hill. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Danny asked about the 911 numbers for the two properties on Taylor Hill. Darlene stated she would send the information to the 911 board.

Darlene brought up the timeline for the educational tax rate and homestead declarations. This will be further discussed in July.

There being no further business, David made the motion to adjourn. Denise seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Wyman, Town Clerk