

Select Board Meeting

October 15, 2020

7:00pm

Athens Town Office

Present were James Trimble, David Bemis, Denise Randall, Darlene Wyman, Matt Perry, Janet Perry, Dan Taylor, Donna Currier, April Lyman, Don Capponcelli, Sandi Capponcelli, Sherry Maher, Tim Stevenson, Corey Noyes, Lynn Morgan, Tina White, Tom Taylor, and Dennis Mirante.

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

Adjustments to the Agenda: There were no adjustments.

Minutes of the prior meeting: David made the motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as corrected. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. David made the motion to accept the minutes of the October 1 meeting. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Public comments: Dan Taylor asked if the town had a new driveway policy. David stated that there isn't one. Dan asked if there is any news about the letter for Taylor Hill. David stated there is nothing at this time. Dennis asked whether a letter has been received about the issues of the town employees. David stated a letter was received from Danny Taylor and will investigate it and because it is a personnel matter it is not a matter that can be discussed in an open meeting. Tina White asked if a computer has been purchased for the town garage. She stated that they are on sale at Walmart. David stated he had been online for a computer. Tina asked about the town's budget year. It is from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Discussion followed about having a fiscal year. Tina asked about the state aid for highways. Tina asked about the items that were cut out of the budget. Denise stated it was not cut out of the budget, but the board chose not to spend it at this time. Tina asked since we received the state aid would some of the costs such as mowing the roadsides will be done. Denise state the board had not discussed it at this point. Discussion on when state aid is received followed. Also, a discussion followed concerning the bathroom for the town garage. Tina stated she contacted the Secretary of State concerning policy questions and it is clear of what can be said in public and what can't. They stated that policies are a general matter and not on the list that can be discussed in private. David stated the policies are public knowledge. Tina stated that the Sec. Of State said you can answer questions about policies in an open meeting. Denise commented that some of the questions in the letter were about employees. Denise stated we could discuss the policy but cannot discuss all the questions because they are specific personnel questions. Darlene asked for authorization to pay the school assessments once the taxes have been received. Darlene

stated she has 20 days after the tax due date to pay the school assessment. David made the motion to authorize the treasurer to pay the school assessments to the Bellows Falls UHSD and the Windham Northeast UESD. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Boards and Officials: Sherry stated the Meetinghouse committee has decided not to pursue the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation grant this year because they wanted to have that become part of a larger package. The committee did not have the rest of the package planned out and budgets worked out. This will become a next year plan with more extensive grant work towards interior work. The committee is starting to talk with folks to get rough budget ideas. The committee is working to pursue higher priority type work such as the windows, carpentry and exterior painting. The committee is also pursuing looking into other grants. Sherry stated there is money left in the account for the remainder from the grant received last year for summer events and she will be ordering materials for what was planned for that. Don handed out a summary of the bids solicited for the truss project. Last meeting the board authorized Renaud Brothers to do the fabrication of the steel. This is about halfway completed. Don asked for authorization for the purchase of bolts and lags, roof struts, lumber and for labor. He also asked for authorization for the building permit. David made the motion to authorize the purchase of the bolts and lags from Renaud Brothers for a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. David made the motion to authorize up to \$2,400.00 for struts and lumber. Don will choose the supplier with the best price. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. David made the motion to authorize up to \$6,600.00 to Guy Louder & Son Inc. for labor and electricity. If a generator is needed, the town has one that can be used. Jim seconded the motion. Put to a vote. The motion carried. David made the motion to authorize the payment for the building permit. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Lynn reported the Athens/Grafton schools will be going to four days a week with K-2 starting October 19 and 3-6 starting November 2. Discussion followed about the dissolution of the union district. David made the motion the Athens Selectboard support the effort of the dissolution of the Windham Northeast Elementary Union School District. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Janet reported the budget committee is starting to work on next year's budget. The committee discussed the cost of the cement for the garage fuel tank. The committee also discussed shutting down the school for the winter and using a port-a-potty and electric heaters for Town Meeting. Discussion followed about accepting the proposal from Brown's Oil Heating Service installation of a boiler in the elementary school. David made the motion to not shut down the school and to accept the proposal from Brown's Oil Heating Service for \$4,700.00 with \$2,350.00 due at the signing. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Darlene will contact Russell. Janet stated the COVID 19 grant has been applied for, but have not heard back yet. Don wished to thank Matt and Eugene for the rebuilding of a section of the wall at Valley Cemetery. Tim reported the Emergency committee has reconnected with Red Cross and reestablished the relationship to take over the emergency shelter facility if they are able to get here. A discussion followed concerning using the school as a shelter for housing and taking care of animals in an

emergency. The committee will look further into this. A discussion followed on using grant money for the LHMP renewal. Tim stated the emergency committee is a small group that meets twice a year and are looking for new members. Sandi stated there will be little to no change in the grandlist since the listers have been advised not to do any viewing because of COVID 19.

Warrant and Mail: The mail was reviewed. The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Roads: Matt stated everything is holding up well. They are working on ordering parts for the sanders and are working on the chipper. Matt asked if Dennis Mirante would help in getting grants to help highway costs. The road crew is working on fall cleanup and getting ready for winter. Matt asked about the purchase of a backpack leaf blower. The board asked Matt to get prices for this. Denise asked Matt to check on the dirt piled up on Reed Road and about cleaning the ditches. The board reviewed the salt bids. American Rock Salt bid \$70.00 per ton. Cargill bid \$70.25 per ton for deicing salt and \$80.25 per ton for treated salt. David made the motion to accept the bid from Cargill salt for \$70.25 per ton. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Executive Session: At 8:50pm David made the motion to move into executive session to discuss a legal and personnel matter where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town of Athens at a substantial disadvantage. Matt was asked to stay for part of the executive session. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. At 9:35pm David made the motion to move out of executive session. Denise seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

The board answered the letter Danny presented to the board. Denise stated that it was a clerical error that the new hire was paid vacation time and they were working to resolve it. The personnel policy states working hours are from 6:00am – 2:30pm. The town pays for 8 hours and it is at the discretion of the road commissioner as to how those hours are worked. A discussion as to whether Old County Road is a town road followed. Sandi will search this.

Further Business: Tina asked if the landowners had been contacted about the trees that need cutting on Route 35. Matt is working on this. Tina asked if the Meetinghouse sign has been put up yet. The sign has arrived, but has not been put up yet. Tina asked why the town equipment didn't have Town lettering on them. David will look into prices for lettering the town equipment.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Wyman, Town Clerk

