

Athens Selectboard Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2022
6:00pm at the Athens Town Office

In attendance: FACT TV, Sandi Capponcelli, Hannah Regier, Janet Perry, Harold Noyes, David Bemis, Amber Stevens, Carol Bingham, Matt Perry, Mike Bates, Denise Randall, Darlene Wyman, Don Capponcelli, Sherry Maher

Called to order at 6:00

Adjustments to Agenda

None

Meeting with Budget Committee

Going through list of budget questions for the selectboard:

Northeast Resource Recovery— Most towns are members. David says it's good to do. Hannah will contact and see what the deal is

Dumpster at the town garage — need once a year \$1400

Community Center Building Maintenance projects — Stay with \$8,000

Grant matching fund — There is already \$15,000 in the general grant matching fund and \$28,700 in the Long Term Highway Projects fund for the Ober Hill Bridge. Add \$10,000 to the general matching fund.

Town Garage Building — needs a lot of work

Quote from Farnham for insulation work: \$67,200

Roof replacement quote: \$20,000

Also need an addition for a bathroom and a septic system

Janet says the feds are going to have more money for insulation for municipalities

David suggests there be a special article at town meeting for voters to vote on

The garage needs a new fuel oil tank

Using a percentage of the ARPA money is an option but the town needs to have hearings regarding the ARPA money first

Janet will be the point person for organizing the quotes and proposing an article

Contracted Services — \$3,200 over the rail, Whitney Hill ledge removal \$5,000,

Sand — needs to increase to \$23,000

Salt — \$35,000

Stone — \$15,00, Gravel — \$18,000

Road resealing — \$8,800

Small culverts — \$3,000

Underdrains — \$2,000

Long Term Highway projects — \$9,500

Equipment Fund — Mike explains the change from buying to leasing a backhoe. We will keep it at \$31,700

New grader — Matt hasn't heard back from any of the dealers yet

New big truck — Matt says nothing available yet that is in better shape than our current big truck

Chloride tank and fuel oil tank — both need replacement and should go under garage building maintenance

Flaggers — \$1,500

Radio service — need new radio for backhoe. Matt will get a quote for a used radio.

The selectboard will meet again with the budget committee on December 13th at 7:00pm to finish working on the budget.

Meeting with budget committee ends at 7:04

Minutes of Prior Meeting

David makes a motion to accept the minutes from the prior meeting. Harold seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

Public Comments

Donald: A friend in Grafton asked about how to get a fire permit in Athens. David says they can give him a call. Don would like it to be on the town website so new residents know. David will get info to Hannah to put on the website.

Darlene, from Wichie — shares information on Windham County Vermont Pride 2023 has a survey that can be scanned from the card with a phone. The card is available in the town office.

Boards and Officials

Hannah: Says that VLCT needs an appraisal on the framed map and charter before they can be insured. Hannah wants to know if the selectboard would like her to contact appraisers and if anyone knows an appraiser. David suggests the Bellows Falls company “Works on Paper,” that does paper restoration might have some ideas. Sandi suggests the Vermont Historical Society.

Sherry / Meetinghouse Committee: They are ready to pay the last invoice to Stebbins. Don has looked at the work and says the carpentry that they hadn’t approved of has been fixed now. They think the whole job is solid now and the invoice can be paid in full. She thanks Don for all the work he’s done to help the committee through the process as well as helping with VHP grant application. They should know about that grant in December. The project would be to level the floor, replace piers, put in a moisture barrier and install storm windows to protect the newly renovated windows. The grant is for \$20,000 and the committee would match another \$20,000 with Historic Society funds and other grants. The interior is the highest priority for the next phase of grant applications so the building would be appealing for weddings and events. They had a great turnout at the open house ~35 people. They have settled on Nov 27th for the tree lighting at 5:00pm on the lawn. Sandi asks if Sherry has heard from Katie Bialy. Sandi has emailed a corrected agreement to Katie, but apparently Katie has not received the emails. Sandi will send the document to Sherry who will send it to Katie. They highway crew will do the clearing work when they are available.

Don / Cemetery Commission: They have a meeting Dec 7th. They are getting quote from Ivor about maintenance costs for 2023.

David asks about getting a tabulator for future elections. Hannah will look into it.

Harold / School board: They are doing a feasibility study for a preschool in the district. There is a great need for a preschool but they are having a hard time finding a place for it. Not having a preschool is preventing some qualified teachers from accepting jobs with the district. The SU board passed their budget at a meeting last night and the AthGraf board are meeting tonight for their 2023 budget.

Executive Session

David makes a motion to go into executive session at 7:22, where premature public knowledge would put the town of Athens at a substantial disadvantage. The first part is for a legal matter and the second part is a contractual matter. Hannah is asked to stay. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

Sandi makes a motion to leave executive session at 8:00. Harold seconded. Put to a vote: all in favor.

No decisions were made in executive session.

Warrants and Mail

Warrants were signed and mail opened.

The selectboard decided to not join the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council.

The board discussed the need to replace the garage fuel oil tank. David asks that Russell Brown look at it and give a quote.

Further Business

David makes a motion to allow Grafton Cares to temporarily store items from the Hunts' property at the Community Center, in the basement, at no charge. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

*Sandi makes a motion to adjourn. Denise seconds. All in favor.
Adjourned at 8:09*

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Regier, Town Clerk