

TOWN OF GRANVILLE - SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2018

In Attendance:

Members: Bruce Hyde/Chair, Dick Poole and Jim Dague

Kevin Bagley/Road Commissioner, Norm Arseneault/FEMA Liaison, Nancy Needham/Delinquent Tax Collector, Nancy Demers/Assistant Town Clerk/Assistant Treasurer, Cheryl Sargeant/Cemetery Commissioner, Roger Stauss/Granville Conservation Commission, Kathy Werner Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Guest: Angus McCuster/RASTA

Public: Shawn and Marilyn Doughrity, Gene and Jacqueline Hammond, Mike Eramo, Kenny and Nancy Beattie, and Ron Millard/CSRC

Call to Order at 6:00 PM

Approved

1. Public Communications and Comments – Bruce opened the meeting by asking the public to state their name and topic they wish to raise when making a comment. ~~Shawn Doughrity requested to amend section 3 of the agenda to exclude topic "August 6 Minutes"~~. Nancy Beattie raised the topic of rising costs and budget management of roads and an update on the town's share of FEMA projects. Bruce responded the Town has contracted for the coming winter season with Griffin and Griffin for winter road maintenance for a set amount. Norm responded the town is expecting a reimbursement from FEMA soon, a portion of which will be a reimbursement to the Town. Ron Millard reported for the Corner School Resource Center with a recap of his August 9th meeting with the Vermont Archives and members of the public from surrounding towns with an interest to organize old town school records and photographs. A second meeting with Vermont Archives will take place at the Granville Town Clerk Office on August 30th. On a separate topic, Ron requested the Selectboard hold a Special Town Meeting for the purpose of a warned vote to renew the tax exempt status of the CSRC. The tax exempt status ended June 30, 2018. The topic will be revisited at the next Selectboard meeting. Ken Beattie raised the topic of the condition of Old Stage Road. Is there money in the town budget to Class 4 roads? Ken suggested the road could use more gravel. Bruce responded that the Town Highway Ordinance outlines the Town's maintenance obligation for Class 4 Roads. The road would need to be inspected by the selectmen to determine if there is an obligation for maintenance/repair specified by the Class 4 ordinance.

2. Amend/Approve Agenda- The Agenda was amended to remove item under #3 "August 6, 2018 Selectboard Minutes".

3. Approve Minutes

- July 9, 2018 Selectboard Minutes –Bruce stated the Selectboard received a letter on August 6, 2018 from Shawn and Marilyn Doughrity regarding an alleged Open Meeting Law Violation made on June 25, 2018. In response to their notice, the Selectmen called a Special Meeting on August 14th. (See minutes August 14, 2018). To cure this violation Richard moved to amend the Selectboard July 9, 2018 meeting minutes to include the following statement "Shawn Doughrity complained that the Selectboard and Town Clerk/Treasurer held an unnoticed meeting on June 25, 2018 after the Selectboard meeting adjourned and that town business was discussed including delinquent taxes and the budget shortfall/education tax". Motion was seconded by Jim. All were in favor with none opposed.

Bruce asked the public to please contact the members of the Selectboard if they don't see an agenda posted to the website. Bruce informed the public that the Selectboard is planning to hold a special in-house training session on Open Meeting Laws with VLCT. In addition there will be a new procedure during Selectboard meetings. Before moving onto the subject of previous meeting minutes the public will be asked for comments

and/or suggestions. At the beginning and end of meetings, the public will have the opportunity to make their comments.

- August 8, 2018 Special Selectboard Minutes-Richard moved to approve the August 8 minutes. Motion was seconded by Jim. All were in favor with none opposed.
- August 14 Special Selectboard Minutes-Richard made the motion to approve the August 14 minutes. Motion was seconded by Jim. All were in favor with none opposed.

4. Financials

- Selectmen's Orders-All orders were approved. Jim suggested paychecks be made at end of the month and not in advance.
- Financial Reports- Financial Reports were reviewed.

5. New Business

- Conservation Commission Issues-Roger spoke to the board in regards to ongoing general maintenance of the Granville Park and would like the board's guidance with the example such as apple tree pruning. The subject will be added to the next meeting's agenda. Roger made a recommendation to the Selectboard to appoint three new members to the Conservation Commission and their names. Jim made the motion to appoint Siobhan Neil, Amy Carst and Michael Egan to the Conservation Commission. Motion was seconded by Richard. All were in favor with none opposed.
- Discussion with Delinquent Tax Collector Nancy Needham-The board invited Nancy to address their concern of the arrears of Delinquent Taxes. Nancy explained that a tax sale was held on the delinquencies of 2015/16 properties which resulted with no bids offered at the tax sale. Other names on the delinquent tax list are making small increment payments, which is why she hasn't held a tax sale on those properties. Nancy also explained the procedure of tax sales. Selectboard may assign one of their board members to bid on behalf of the town when there are no other bids.
- Constable Speed Sign Electronic Report-No report was given.
- Approve Driveway Permit Application – Noah McCormack – Richard moved to approve the permit application which was seconded by Jim. All were in favor with none opposed.
- Approve PLT Payments Class Action inclusion-Richard moved to approve to opt into the PILT Payments Class Action lawsuit. Motion was seconded by Jim. All were in favor with none opposed.
- Request for Letter of Support for RASTA application for VT Community Development Grant- Angus McCuster made a request for the Town of Granville sign a draft Letter of Support for Town of Rochester's planning grant application to benefit planning efforts of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association and to aid Rochester's efforts to gain capital to help fund the study of the Velomont trail location and design through Granville, Hancock and Rochester and identify potential hut locations in these three communities. Marilyn asked if there would cutting of virgin forest trees and if wild animals would be affected. Angus explained these trails and hut locations would use existing roads and privately owned properties. Richard made the motion to approve the letter of support. Motion was seconded by Jim. All were in favor with none opposed.
- Annual Contract with Town Assessor- The board reviewed the contract with a discussion on the proposed fee. Jim made the motion to approve the one year contract. Motion was seconded. All in favor with none opposed.

- School bus Overnight Parking-Richard made the motion to allow a school bus to be parked overnight at the Town Hall parking area. Motion was seconded by Jim. All were in favor with none opposed.

6. Old Business

- Winter Sand purchase – Kevin and Jim submitted winter sand cost estimates. A discussion ensued. Richard made the motion to contract with Tabor. Jim seconded the motion. All was in favor with none opposed.
- Summer Road Work – gravel, grading and culverts – Kevin discussed with the board his proposed projects. Jim expressed his desire to spend half the highway budget this year and the other half next year on graveling. Jim also discussed making road improvements with stone and fabric in place of just graveling. Also discussed was installing, clearing existing culverts and road grading. The board decided to table making decisions until the next meeting.
- FEMA Project Post Office Hill Road Work Progress and Extra Charges –Norm reported the FEMA Post Office Hill project required a Change Order to drill and pin and is in accordance with Clause 2 of the contract with ECS Excavating. The amount of this Change Order was \$4175.00 which is an increase from \$31,798.00 to \$35,973 of the original contracted amount. The Change Order requires the approval of the Selectboard. Norm reported that the project is now complete and recommends the contractor be paid in full. Richard made the motion to approve by signing Change Order #1. Motion was seconded by Jim. All were in favor with none opposed.
- Revisit “Butch” Foster’s Curb Cut Application – Kevin reported the culvert Mr. Foster installed was done improperly and not to Town’s specification and the culvert was installed without a permit. Jim moved to deny Butch Foster’s permit application. Motion was seconded by Richard. All were in favor with none opposed.
- Road Commissioner Job Description –No decision was made. Topic to be added to next meeting agenda.
- Budget Discussion Regarding Town Labor and Equipment – No decision was made. Topic to be added to next meeting agenda.
- USPS Update – Contractors have completed the removal of hazardous materials and construction should commence soon.
- Lawsuits Update – Mathews and Doughrity et al. –Nothing new to report on the Mathews lawsuit with the Town of Rochester. Bruce reported the Judge ruled in favor of the Town of Granville on all complaints except for an unresolved issue over the minutes from May 7, 2017. The town is currently working on an agreement with the plaintiffs to settle the issue.

7. Items for Next Agenda – Bruce asked for any public comments before moving into Executive Session. Jim asked Richard if ECFiber provides free service to municipal buildings. Richard will ask about it at the next ECFiber meeting. Jim discussed with the board regarding a leadership training being offered that he would like to attend. The Town Clerk will not be available to take the minutes at the September 10th meeting. Bruce asked Marilyn if she would be interested in taking the minutes at the next meeting and she declined. Cheryl was asked and she accepted.

Norm suggested the Selectboard hire an engineer for the remaining FEMA #4330 Projects yet to be done.

Topics for Next Agenda:

- Conservation Commission Issues
- Road Commissioner Job Description
- Budget Discussion Regarding Town Labor and Equipment
- CSRC Request for a Special Town Meeting

8. Executive Session - Jim made the motion to go into executive session at 8:05 pm to discuss a legal issue. Motion was seconded by Richard. All were in favor with none opposed.

At 8:25 Jim moved to exit from executive session which was seconded by Richard. All were in favor with none opposed.

Jim made the motion for the Selectmen to forward the details of the Doughrity and Hammond draft settlement agreement to the town attorney for final drafting. Motion was seconded by Richard. All were in favor with none opposed.

9. Adjourn – Richard made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm. Motion was seconded by Jim. All were in favor with none opposed.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kathy Werner
Town Clerk/Treasurer