

Granville Selectboard Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2018

APPROVED

In attendance:

Bruce Hyde, Chair, James Dague and Richard Poole; Selectboard, Nancy Demers, Assistant Town Clerk; Kevin Bagley, Road Commissioner and Mark Belisle, Constable

Public: Cheryl L. Sargeant, Assistant Board Clerk; Thomas Hammond, Shaun & Marilyn Dougherty; Steve Mishkit; Michael Eramo; Ron & Carol Millard; Kate Youngdaul; Warren King, Tom Smith and Max Cox from Ripton Energy Assistance Program (REAP).

Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.

Public Communication:

- Warren King of REAP had been in contact with the Town Clerk to schedule a meeting with the Selectboard to discuss their program. The program assists those in need of firewood, heating fuels (i.e. oil, propane or kerosene) when they come upon hard times during the winter heating months. They service mainly those that are clients of HOPE but also serve others that are having difficulties. They wanted to speak with the Selectboard to see if Granville would be interested in starting its own program to serve our community members and/or those in the Town of Hancock. The wood for their program is all donated and volunteers put it up in a shed for the upcoming heating season. Richard Poole might be interested in helping to get this started. There is a meeting on October 27th from 9:00 a.m. To 1:00 p.m. At the shed next to the Ripton Fire Department.
- Richard reported that ECFiber will be installing the hub in Hancock and that Granville is wired, drops will be installed this week and that ECFiber will contact subscribers at a later date to hook up homes. The plan is to have all 24 towns completed by 2020 or 2021.

Financial Reports:

- Cost increasing for the alarm phone line which is probably a quarterly invoice. It is a designated line for the alarm with no interruptions just like the line for the fax machine. Will ask the Town Clerk to look into further.

Minutes:

- August 20, 2018 Minutes. Shaun Dougherty requested that the Selectboard amend Section 3 to read; Shawn asked that the July 9, 2018 meeting minutes reflect the complaint submitted to the Selectboard about the July 9, 2018 Open Meeting Law Violations. Jim made the motion to accept the amendment and Richard seconded. All those in favor.
- August 28, 2018 Minutes Jim made the motion to approve the minutes as written and Richard seconded. All those in favor.

New Business:

- Budget discussion regarding town labor and equipment was brought up by Jim indicating that the Town voted on a budget that was \$2,200.00 higher and the Selectboard set a tax rate based on a lesser amount so we need to cut somewhere.
- ~~Jim made the motion to advertise for someone to cut trees and shovel the walkways.~~ Will investigate further with Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding the liabilities and insurance issues. It was noted by the members that it is difficult to hire people part-time to perform casual labor.
- Ron Millard and Kate Youngdal from the Corner School Resource Center (CSRC) submitted a DRAFT letter to the Selectboard for their review requesting their support of the project for a 50/50 grant application that they would like to submit. The CSRC has received the fire and flood permits since 2017 and 2018 and are now ready to pursue the project. The south and west sides of the building have been painted and they have contracted with a company to paint the roof. They have various projects broken down with costs and overall estimate that it will cost \$140,000.00 or so; windows \$10,000.00; renovations \$50,000.00 and front porch \$18,000.00. The main beams are rotten and broken that is why the floor is sagging. The US Forest Service is no longer interested in using the building, the Big Town Gallery may be interested in holding events there and Yestermorrow Build/Design School is interested in helping with the project. They have received a letter of support from the RASTA group and the Vermont Hut Association.

The letter of support as written Jim is not comfortable with the wording. After much discussion it was decided that Bruce will sign the letter on behalf of the Town of Granville and will sign it as the Chair of the Selectboard

Report from Constable:

- Discussion ensued regarding the Duty (Log) Sheets submitted by Mark. The Selectboard requested that the speed sign be relocated as it was not in a good location. Jim requested traffic count numbers in the monthly reports. Would like Mark to speak with individuals about speed on town highways to get them to slow down. Mark says that if he issues a ticket he writes the ticket number on the report incase they go to court. The Selectboard requested that he move it around more often to get a better idea of traffic patterns and to also help slow people down.

Complaint was received regarding a car on West Hill Extension that was up on 2 X 4s being a hazard. Mark will speak with the individual to see if they can't move the vehicle to a safer location and not have it in or near the town highway right-of-way.

Mark is demoing a cruiser next week to replace his current vehicle. He went through emergency training and cell service for first responders. He is signing up with First Net to receive calls. The Local Emergency Operation Plan (LEOP) will be more indepth next year and will be titled differently.

Building issues need to look into fixing the steeple next year and planning on what the town will do with the church space. Jim mentioned that would be a good project for the Planning Commission to take over. Jim would also like to look into the fire department building and at least make it energy efficient.

Report from Road Commissioner:

- Chris Bump from Vtrans will be performing the test borings next week on the West Hill slide project..
- Kevin submitted his letter of resignation. Kevin requested that someone pick up the cones, rock rake, distance wheel, and signs from his house which are outside. Kevin will turn in his key to the Town Hall basement to the Town Clerk upon her return as she issued it and is keeping track of them. Jim made the motion to accept his resignation ~~siting gratitude for all that he has done for the town and~~ Richard seconded. All in favor.

Bruce mentioned that we need to hire an engineer to design the final 2 projects for the last FEMA disaster. Mike Eramo gave information for Doug Newton of Newton Consulting Engineers as a possible person. Cheryl also suggested contacting Vtrans to get a listing. Bruce to look into the topic further and draft an advertisement for the October meeting. Jim made the motion to advertise and Richard seconded. All in favor.

Jim requested that the Selectboard appoint Stephen Mishkit as interim Road Commissioner until he leaves on December 31, 2018. Steve feels the roads are in the best shape they have ever been in and appreciates all that Kevin has done. Feels that we need to look at costs to keep taxes down. Jim and Richard will help while Steve is away and will work with the winter roads contractor when issues arise and Jim will help with grant applications. Jim made the motion to accept the interim appointment of Stephen Mishkit and Richard seconded. All in favor.

Further discussion regarding grading which Harvey's is unable to perform as they are busy. Jim states that Ray Harvey is okay with the town using another company which is outside of the contract that the town has with Harvey's. Mike Ketcham is available for \$100.00 per hour and Jeff Fuller said that he would charge \$25.00 per month to have the grader at the Bowl Mill. It was requested that the berms along the shoulders be removed as well to get the water off.

Bruce spoke with Jeff Fuller about putting up gravel for the town which they agreed to have 2,500 cubic yards piled for town use. There will be 2,000 cubic yards set aside for the town and payment can be made as it has in the past.

Roadside Mowing will be performed by Mike Ketcham soon. ~~Culverts one was flushed by the Granville Volunteer Fire Department and is still clear and flowing.~~ Kevin mentioned that there are 3 culverts that need to be replaced; West Hill Extension, West Hill by Mishkit's camp and the one near Bruce Turnbull's on North Hollow Road.

Old Business:

- The Selectboard made an offer to the Plaintiff's and a Court date was schedule for October but it has since been moved to sometime in November.

Next meeting will be October 9, 2018 as October 8th is Columbus Day holiday. Will check with the Town Clerk on the actual date and will work on a DRAFT agenda.

Jim made the motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter at 7:55 p.m. And Richard seconded. All in favor.

Executive Session:

Jim moved to exit Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. and Richard seconded. All in favor. The Selectboard will continue efforts with the Plaintiffs to settle the alleged Open Meeting violation from May 2017 Selectboard Minutes. This is the only remaining issue in the Doughrity et al court case to be decided.

Jim made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. And Richard seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl L. Sargeant