

Granville Selectboard Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021 via Zoom Meeting ID #4565495073

APPROVED

In attendance:

Bruce Hyde, Chair, James Dague and Jennifer Page; Selectboard, Mark Belisle, Constable, Kenneth Beattie, Road Foreman, Roger Stauss, Moderator/Auditor, Marilyn Dougherty, Website Manager and Cheryl L. Sargeant, Clerk

Public: Shawn Dougherty, Michael & Diane Eramo, Kate Stauss, Jennell Smith; AT&T Representative and Thomas & Jacquelyn Hammond

Call to Order: 5:08 p.m. with Bruce noting some technical difficulties with people trying to call in to participate in the meeting. Then reading a paragraph regarding holding public meetings using video conferencing as recommended by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT).

Public Communication:

- Shawn indicated that the Agenda was not posted at the fire station. He also inquired about the Australian Ballot process and if ballots would be mailed to all registered voters. Bruce indicated that they were awaiting instructions from the Secretary of State's Office.
- Marilyn indicated that she had been speaking with Mark Belisle and Bruce regarding a neighbor plowing snow into **the Town's** right-of-way on Maston Hill Road resulting in **blocking their access to their property. Gene indicated that he too was concerned about the issue with the snow blocking the right-of-way and was asking for help from the Town.** Bruce indicated that he was not sure if the Town could help them with their problem but would contact the neighbor to ask that they not put their snow in the **Town's** right-of-way. Mark indicated that he felt that it was a civil matter.
- Susan Lee sent an e-mail indicating that the plowing contractor had plowed down her mailbox and left it in the ditch. Kathy had spoken to them and Bruce will follow-up as there are others in Town that have had the same issue.

Amend/Approve Agenda:

- Jim asked to move item #4 of the Financials under New Business as item #3.

Financial Reports:

- Orders were e-mailed on Thursday; January 7th after a short discussion on inspection of the winter roads Jim moved to have Bruce sign on behalf of the Selectboard and approved all bills and Jennifer seconded. All in favor.
- Review Financial Reports no comments
- Approve NEMREC Cloud Software Bruce indicated that this is a request from Rick Favor and Kathy to protect and save the Town's Grand List information at a cost of \$20.00/month. Jim made the motion to approve the subscription and Jennifer seconded. All in favor.
- Treasurer's Report Jim mentioned that the Grants need to have columns for accepted and applied for (i.e. #7 and #8 were applied and #9 was accepted). Bruce will request to have the report corrected.
- Update on Town Audit/Draft Bruce mentioned that the DRAFT should be available on Tuesday and available for next week's meeting.

Minutes

- December 14, 2020 Selectboard Meeting and December 17, 2020 Special Selectboard First Net Cell Tower Public Hearing Bruce made the motion to approve as edited further after posting and Jennifer seconded. All in favor with Jim indicating he did not read them.

New Business

- Town Meeting Preparation, Reports and Schedule reports are due by January 25th and Cheryl will work with Kathy on those that are missing. Mark asked to double check the date. Marilyn indicated in checking other Town sites they are indicating that January 14th is the deadline for petitions. Marilyn instructed to work with Kathy on what needs to be posted and other ways to get the word out.

New Business: (continued)

- Table to Contents Jim would like to have an Actual Expenditures Report Bruce suggested using the Balance Sheet and putting a column for the June 30th year end figures. Cheryl instructed to work with Kathy on updates.
- Mark indicated that he would be writing a Buildings and Grounds report. He will mention the ADA requirements that need to be addressed for the doors and ramp.
- Zoom Meeting - Zoom Informational Town Meeting March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Bruce made the motion to accept and Jennifer seconded. All in favor.
- Review Budget Development review Kathy's DRAFT #2 first section Municipal Budget – Constable Salary \$5,000.00 increased to \$8,000.00 for additional hours. Mark explained that this is due to the Selectboard requesting he perform additional hours. Jennifer indicated that it was her request and that it is working. Jim indicated that he felt the Health Insurance line item was too low; Bruce to check with Kathy.

Highway Budget – Bruce indicated he was not in favor of increasing the Gravel line item by \$32,000.00 and would rather have it be a Warning Article. After a lengthy discussion between the Board, citizens and the Road Foreman; Jen made the motion to increase the Gravel line item by \$10,000.00 with a Highway Budget of \$182,600.00 and Bruce seconded. Jim was opposed.

- Review/Approve Town Meeting Warning Articles after a brief discussion it was decided to leave the Budget Article a combined amount for Municipal and Highway. Bruce asked if incumbents should be listed for offices to be voted on. Roger indicated that could be confusing and would rather have names left out.

New Business: (continued)

Steeple Repairs – Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to apply for a 5 year loan in the amount of \$60,000.00 to augment the Grant from Vermont Historic Preservation in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Roof Repairs - Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to apply for a loan in the amount of \$30,000.00 for roof repairs.

- Jim indicated having a short meeting to finalize the budget and Warning Articles. Bruce indicated that there were 2 petitions he was aware of regarding the First Net Cell Tower and would share those with Mike and Diane. After further discussion Bruce and Roger to look into the matter further as advisory non-binding articles.
- Move to Australian Ballot for Town Meeting – Bruce indicated that he would like to move to Australian Ballot and once approved could start to notify everyone starting on Tuesday. Jim made the motion to move to an Australian Ballot for Town Meeting on March 2, 2021 to conduct business following all laws and Jennifer seconded. All in favor.
- Elected Officials Notification and Consent Forms – Cheryl and Kathy will work together to get the word out.
- Accept the Grant for Steeple Repairs from Vermont Historic Preservation – Jim made the motion to accept the Grant and Jennifer seconded. All in favor.

Old Business:

- Constable Report Mark indicated that COVID shots are now available for law enforcement and will schedule his as soon as possible.
- Buildings and Grounds Update discussed advertising for bids for the roof repairs and looking into the ADA issues with the buildings further.

Old Business: (continued)

- Cell Tower Update Bruce indicated there would be a second balloon test on Tuesday; January 12th from 9:00 a.m. To 1:00 p.m. Along with a signal strength test. They will focus on Patterson Brook and the surrounding areas in the Granville Gulf and should post information the next day. The Public Service Board has approved a 60 day extension and First Net/AT&T would not submit an application until March 10th.
- New Computers Bruce would like them used by Town officials and Town employees. Will discuss further after Town Meeting.
- Discuss Job Descriptions none presented. Mark indicated that he would work on the Buildings and Grounds Manager description.

Roads:

- Road Commissioner Update Jim indicated nothing further to report.
- Road Signs nothing reported.
- Drive-Way Permit Bruce made the motion to approve the permit for Toni Yandow and Jim seconded. All in favor.

Public Communication and Comments

- None presented

Next meeting will be January 18, 2021 special meeting at 5:00 p.m. Budget and Warning Articles. Next regular meeting is February 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Zoom Informational Town Meeting is March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Jim made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. and Bruce seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl L. Sargeant
Selectboard Clerk