

ROXBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2020  
7:00PM – 8:10PM  
THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Vice-Chair Shane Ryan and Road Commissioner Dave McShane

STAFF PARTICIPATING: Selectboard Assistant Tammy Legacy

PUBLIC: Tom Frazier and Ed Carney

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. No additions or deletions to agenda.
3. Dave moved to approve the minutes of November 16, 2020 as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes.
4. Public
  - a) Tom Frazier spoke to the Board about his suggestion of using eminent domain to obtain certain properties in the village for cleanup. Dave stated an attorney has said it needs to be for an economic purpose. Tom stated this would be for the public good. Tom stated what he proposes is separate from what others are proposing. Dave did not think the Board could declare it would be for the public good, that the voters may need to decide. Tom stated an article could be added to the Town Warning, will the Board add an article? Tom feels there is a lot of support for this. Tom feels there are three properties between the Church and the store of interest. Budget was discussed. Tom feels this could be funded over ten years. Dave suggested someone approach Dave Santi for a price. Tom feels for all three properties it would be around \$108,000 which is fair market value. Discussion about eminent domain. Tom wants this to be added to the ballot for Town Meeting. The article would explain the process. The loss of taxes was mentioned. Tom stated the surrounding property values are lowered so if the two properties were purchased it would more than make up the difference. Tom said the three properties would be open space if the Town purchased them, just like the Garner property. Future use of properties was discussed. Tom said he would get an article for the warning if the Board doesn't want to do it. Start negotiating for the purchase. Shane wondered if anyone has approached Dave Santi about this. The Board will discuss at the next meeting.
  - b) Ed Carney's Request - Tammy read the email from Clare with comments from Jim Barlow regarding the Carney proposal. Land can be purchased without voter approval if the Town already has the funds available or if donations are made in order to purchase property. Jim suggested a purchase/sale agreement be made with the current owner which would state the Town is able to obtain funds to purchase the property. Ed would like a donor fund created. Ed would solicit funds to purchase Rick Tintle's land; Ed would like to send out letters requesting donations to be sent to the Roxbury Town Clerk's to be deposited into the fund. A committee could be established to oversee the purchase and Selectboard would be the gatekeeper authorizing purchase. If not enough funds, the donations would be returned to donor. Dave stated the fund could be created and get a committee to oversee it. Discussion on who could be on the committee. Ed hopes to have a price in a week or so. Ed will be back with further info hopefully at next meeting. Dave moved to allow Tammy to move forward with establishing a separate account for donations for property purchases. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. Discussion on whether it should be a separate bank account was discussed. Tom feels the Town is suffering for what there is in the village. Tom will get a petition if the Board doesn't want to but he feels the Selectboard should do what is in the best interest of the Town.

## 5. Road Commissioner's Report

- a) The new Ford truck is ready to be picked up at Lucky's. All other equipment is good for winter use.
- b) Roads are frozen.
- c) The bid deadline for the Warren Mountain Road Slope Project has been extended. The new deadline is on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The Board may need to meet next week to award the project.
- d) Dave informed the Board that the Town has received the Sidewalk Scoping Study Grant. After the kick-off meeting, the Board will need to put the project out to bid for engineering. This project requires a 25% match which will need to be added to next year's budget.

## 6. Financial Report

- a) The Board reviewed the orders. Dave moved to approve the orders. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. Due to Clare's absence, Dave moved to approve Shane to sign the orders. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes.
- b) Tammy updated the Board on income received.
  - \$44,407.00 – FY21 Hold Harmless Payment
  - \$33,205.80 – 2020 PILOT Payment
  - \$250.00 – Secretary of State's Primary Election – COVID 19 safety equipment
  - \$1,000.00 – Secretary of State's General Election – new box for absentee ballotsTom Frazier wanted the Board to know they are doing a great job for the Town.

## 7. Unfinished Business

- a) Ed Carney's request was discussed under Public.
- b) Shane mentioned that Spencer Dumas will replace the locks at the Town Office. Dave asked Shane if he knew of a person that could do some handyman work. The front door at the Town Office has issues. It would be good to have a specific person to be able to ask to do some minor work. Shane will look into finding someone.
- c) The Board discussed alternative power at the Town Office. Dave has not been able to get more info on Tesla. Dave is receiving quotes from Bushey Generator and Brookfield Service. Dave is also getting electrical work quotes. Gillespie thinks the current two tanks the Town has will be adequate for propane use. Dave stated he thinks this should have been done years ago (power goes out often in the village). Dave hopes to get prices to the Board by the end of the week.

## 8. New Business

- a) Tammy gave the Board a copy of a proposed contract for doing the 2021 Town Report. The proposal came from Repro. Repro has been creating the Town Report for several years. The Board discussed the proposal. Dave is in favor of a two-year contract. Dave moved to approve a two-year contract with Repro for Town Reports. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes.
- b) The Board discussed the new laws for Tree Wardens. Emerald Ash Borer is a concern in Vermont. Trees in the Town's right-of-way belong to the abutting property owner. If trees are infected, the law allows the trees to be taken down. There are approximately 2,000 Ash Trees in the right-of-way. Ash Borers are in Montpelier. The Board will discuss this further after Town Meeting.

## 9. Town Meeting 2021

- a) The Board discussed the upcoming Town Meeting and 2021/2022 Budget. Tammy and Dave will work on budget numbers and submit to the Board for discussion.

## 10. Other Business – None

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tammy Legacy, Selectboard Assistant      Approved on December 21, 2020