

REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024 AT 5:30PM

Present: Steve Barrup, Jerry Waterman, Richard Gosselin, Denise Daigle, Chris Roy, Bob Best, Jen Harlow, Dave Ghelli, Tim Davis, Steve Edgerley, Bob McDowell, Mike Baraw, Matt Wilson, Charlie Buck

Steve called the meeting to order at 5:30PM and introduced those present. Jerry read the ground rules for the meeting.

Jerry made a motion to approve minutes of 6/6 and 6/13 meetings, seconded by Rick and passed on a voice vote.

Appearances by local citizens/visitors – Bob Best asked if the board was aware than an individual was cutting trees on town land in the woods on Vance Hill between the town and the school. The board will look into this. Charlie Buck stated the waste district had not picked up our recycling, which forced him to close early on Wednesday. Steve stated their equipment broke down which put them behind. Denise stated she called them and they were doing their best to get us picked up as soon as possible. Charlie asked if the board wanted him to coordinate with the waste district when it comes time to move and open the new recycling center. The board stated that it would be great if Charlie could do that.

Dave Ghelli wanted to thank all involved for the easement process. He stated that this flowed perfectly and efficiently. He also gave an update on NEK Broad Band's progress.

Road Commissioner report – Mike stated the state is giving us a grant for the culvert replacement on Vance Hill by the Nault property. Mike gave an update on projects they have been working on.

Water/Sewer/Solar/Recycling Report – Mike stated the water is doing fine – he is going to have Tri State come up and take a look at our upper wells. Mike stated he completed his course for sewer operator and passed the test. Mike stated that our annual inspection report has been received. There are minor issues that need attention and he has started to take care of these. Jerry stated one solar panel doesn't seem to be following the sun. Steve will call to get this looked at. Recycling center had nothing to report.

Listers – Steve made a motion to accept the resignation of Oscar Roberts with regret, seconded by Jerry and passed on a voice vote. Steve made a motion to accept the re-appraisal order from the state and ask the listers to move forward with the process of getting bids from re-appraisal firms, seconded by Rick and passed on a voice vote. Listers errors and omissions – parcel ID#VT105048 is now owned by the town and should be non-taxable. The listers had this as taxable when they lodged the grand list for 2024. Also parcel id#SA02127, Nickerson – when the grand list was lodged this property had 12 acres of land and they have 9 acres of land. The listers would like the board to approve changing this to the correct acreage. Steve made a motion to accept the listers recommendation on these two properties, seconded by Rick and passed on a voice vote.

Rick reviewed the sheriff's report. The board signed the sheriff's contract for 2024. Bob McDowell stated he has had issues with loud mufflers on cars and trucks going by his home. He asked the sheriff if something could be done about this. Jen Harlow stated that they could go out and patrol the area, but chances are if they are out there the individuals would tone it down. Steve stated that this is addressed with VT state inspections. Jen Harlow stated she is struggling with employees and employee retention. She wanted to make the board aware of this.

Steve made a motion to approve the warrants, bank statement, and journal entries, seconded by Jerry and passed on a voice vote. The board approved Mihill, Duckless, Petit cemetery deeds.

Setting tax rate for 2024 – Steve made a motion to take \$56,212.00 out of the restricted highway fund to reduce the 2024 taxes seconded by Jerry. Some discussion followed. This passed on a voice vote.

Steve made a motion to set the tax rate for 2024 as follows: Residential tax rate \$2.1099 Non-residential tax rate \$2.2712, seconded by Rick. Some discussion followed. This passed on a voice vote.

Barry Sahagian was not present.

Bob Best had concerns with the bleachers at the ball field. They are not safe or legal. Bob stated that he has someone that would dismantle these and take all of the stuff away and not drive heavy equipment on the field for \$100.00. The board approved this to be done.

Unfinished/new business – Denise presented the board with rules of procedure for board meetings for their review. This will be further discussed at the August meeting.

Voted to adjourn at 6:50PM.