

Selectmen's Draft Agenda/Minutes

January 13th 2025

5:00 p.m.

Present: Eric Pope, Chair of the Board, Larry Labor, Bruce Remick & TammyLee Morin, Clerk to the Board

Others present: Jane Malgeri, Deanna Keenan, Linda Chaffee from The Community House Committee, and joining them was Mike and Tracey Rossi.

Nicole Gratton from Preservation Trust of Vermont.

Darlene and Troy Bowen Flood/FEMA concerns.

1. Call the meeting to order.

A motion was made and seconded to call the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Make any changes/additions to the draft agenda as needed.

- a. Discussion of new water source for the school and neighboring properties, to be drilled this Spring when conditions allow.
- b. Valley Road Culvert – final design has been completed for a Valley Road culvert to be upsized from an existing 2' aluminum culvert to a new 8' x 5' concrete box. The project is part of the watershed improvements being made on the former Farrow Farm, on behalf of Vermont Fish and Wildlife, the new owner of the parcel. The Town will submit a letter of support to Patrick Hurley of Memphremagog Watershed association who will seek funding for the project. The Town match will be \$5,000.
- c. School Issues – Beth Brookes, program director at Turning Points emailed the Selectboard regarding some building concerns at the school, including the kitchen sink, front door, and a heating issue. Bruce and Larry will further investigate and formulate a plan to address.

3. Review and approve the minutes of December 23rd as written.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of December 23rd, 2024, as written.

4. Let any guests speak.

The Selectboard and Community House Committee discussed the painting proposal received from builder Robert Langlands. The proposal price of \$16,390.00 includes scraping the existing paint, one coat of primer, and 2 coats of satin exterior white paint. The Selectboard unanimously approved the estimate, and an agreement was made for the Community House Committee fund and the Town to split the cost evenly. Eric Pope will sign the estimate and let Robert know of his proposal acceptance.

The discussion then pivoted to the Community House Structural and Site drainage work that will be completed prior to the painting project. The structural improvements will be funded through a Grant from the Freeman Foundation and facilitated by the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

Nicole Gratton, attending on behalf of the PTV, Committee members, and the Selectboard finalized a gameplan for putting the structural work out to bid.

Chairman Eric Pope will write up bid documents and the Town intends to send an invitation to bid to six contractors by the end of January, with bids to be due by March 10th, to be reviewed at the Selectboard meeting that evening.

Troy and Darlene Bowen of Toad Pond Road discussed their ongoing experiences due to the damage to their property during the 2024 floods. Darlene read a letter from FEMA stating that they were denied funds because the Town did not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Chairman Eric Pope explained that although the Town is not required to participate in the Insurance Program, the selectboard has invited Alison Low of NVDA to attend the January 27th meeting to discuss the possibility of Morgan joining the NFIP, pending the requirements.

The Board expressed their sympathy to the Bowens, but do not feel that Morgan's Flood Insurance status is relevant to their case and urged and supported the Bowen's to appeal the decision and continue to seek reimbursement from FEMA for damage incurred to their property.

Darlene stated she just wanted to update the Board on their status and thanked them for taking the time to discuss.

5. Email from Noah Bond of Summit Crest Consulting Group Re; MERP Grant

The Town has been awarded a Municipal Energy Resilience Program implementation grant for \$222,431 to perform energy upgrades on the school building, including new heating and cooling units, comprehensive insulation, new lighting, door improvements and more. In addition to the energy improvements, award funds allow for the town to hire a consulting firm to manage the grant and intended projects. Summit Crest Consulting group sent an email offering their services to fulfill that role, suggesting a meeting with the Selectboard to discuss his proposal.

Before committing to a meeting, Chairman Eric Pope will check with NVDA for their thoughts and recommendations regarding consultants. Tabled until next meeting.

6. Review, approve and sign Seymour Lake association bill for ½ 4th quarter unemployment costs.

A motion was made and seconded to approve and sign the 4th quarter billing SLA for ½ the quarterly unemployment charges in the amount of \$70.18.

7. Review and approve the standard mileage rate of .70 for 2025.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new mileage rate of .70 starting January 1st 2025.

8. Other Business.

There was mention of the Town website not having updated Grand List and Tax Maps.

A motion was made and seconded to have Town Clerk & Treasurer let Jean Wilson from the assessors office know and ask for possible updated information.

9. Review and approve Orders # 24044 in the amount of \$9,898.00 in accounts payable for the appropriation's passed at Town Meeting in March of 2024.

A motion was made and seconded to approve and sign order#24044 in the amount of \$9,898.00 for payment.

10. Review and approve Orders #24045 for Shawn Austin in the amount of \$304,041.00 in accounts payable for Storm #2 FEMA expenses.

A motion was made and seconded to approve and sign order #24045 in the amount of \$304,041.00 Strom #2 FEMA expenses for payment.

11. Review and approve order # 24046 in the amount of \$16,263.15 for Payroll and Accounts payable the amount of \$66,968.02.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Order #24046 in the amounts shown above for payroll and accounts payable for payment.

12. Adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 27th at 5pm