

Select Board Meeting, 9/25/17

Present, Select Board Members Moe Brigham, Chris Jarvis, Carl Russell, Paul Vallee, and Vanessa Brown. Town Manager Greg Maggard took the day for a family commitment.

6:00pm Call to Order

Approval of Agenda - Select Board Member Chris Jarvis added an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Public Comment or Inquiry - David Sambor asked if the Town could address a clog on Cushing Drive storm drain. It filled with gravel from previous town repairs to the swale/storm drain. The water has also created a dangerous ditch on the side of the road. The board agreed to bring it to Town Manager Greg Maggard's attention.

Appointments

6:15pm Bethel Revitalization Initiative - Town Hall Use during the Winter of 2017-2018 (Discussion of weekly use of the Town Hall during the winter). Dave Sambor representing the BRI, provided updates on the Animating Infrastructure Grant. In addition, he requested the use of the Town Hall for a monthly movie night geared towards children. The SB approved the use of the hall. Select Board Chair Russell requested that any printed information come to the SB packet prior to the meeting.

6:30pm Cecil Washburn - Dilapidated Building Hazards, Ordinance -

Cecil Washburn was present to discuss the town's power to pull down dilapidated buildings (a barn in particular), He feels the building represents a danger and a health hazard in its current state. Russell suggested adding it to the agenda for a future SB meeting, and wondered if the issue could be addressed but the health officer, Neal Fox. The SB will ask the town manager to look into the issue, to see if Bethel can take any action.

6:45 pm Dan Grossman - Michael Stauckas property - Dan Grossman was present representing Michael Stauckas. (See documents in packet). He is asking Bethel to sign off on the lease in perpetuity (\$.50/year), so that the taxpayer can proceed with sale of the property. Select Board Member Vanessa Brown moved subject to approval of the town attorneys, the SB agree to sign off on the Quitclaim Deed. Second, Jarvis. All in favor. Grossman will send the info directly to town lawyer, Deb Leahy.

Reports, Motions, and Ordinances

1.) October Selectboard Meeting Schedule (due to Columbus Day)

October 9th to the 16th, and then 23rd to the 30th. Moved, Brigham. Second, Vallee. All in favor.

2.) Vermont League of Cities and Towns - Proposed 2018 Municipal Policy. (review of draft 2018 municipal policy). Russell noted that the policy is similar to the past, outlining policies for legislative action. Moved that Maggard attend as the Bethel delegate, Brigham. Second, Jarvis. All in favor.

3.) Vermont League of Cities and Towns Annual Meeting - Delegate Designation. (see above)

Town Manager's Report

1.) Constable Report - Jarvis mentioned that he spoke with community members who are concerned about excessive speed in the downtown area. Russell spoke with the transportation coordinator at TRORC, and they are able to do some data gathering about speed in the downtown this fall. This discussion will be on the agenda for the next SB meeting, so that it can include Maggard. Tabled.

2.) Admin Report -

a.) Status Update on Action Items

Maggard will address the future of the lease for the gravel pit.

Discussion regarding water utility/usage, specifically around water accounts that are consistently years overdue. There is a policy in place to address these issues.

Regarding equity in water billing, Russell noted that with increased professional staff in the town offices, that there will be better data for the SB to access to help determine solutions to the problem of equity/consistency in billing for water usage.

respond to letter from water customer, make a motion that their water rates should remain consistent with others in town. Vallee suggested that it should be discussed with Maggard first. Will be addressed administratively.

Minutes and Communications

1.) SB minutes of the 9/11/17, regular meeting - accepted as written. Moved, Brigham. Second, Vallee. All in favor.

2.) Zaremba Group's Motion to Withdraw - DRB decision will stand.

3.) Committee Minutes - reviewed

4.) Other communications- Brigham brought the SB up to date on the Solid Waste decision regarding the feasibility study for the solar array. The joint board has approved signing the lease for the feasibility study. Also, discussion regarding the development of a Municipal Corporation district to begin July 1st, 2018. (See Select Board Packet)

Any other business necessary to come before the board

Jarvis wanted to discuss the formal system for Human Service fund requests from the Town of Bethel, as well as who is on the committee. Russell emphasized that the committee has been working with a skeleton crew for the last year. Vallee volunteered to organize the committee going forward. Russell suggested some outreach to organizations that have been funded in the past. Jarvis suggested that interested organizations could present requests directly to the Select Board while the Human Service Committee is reorganizing.

Entered Executive Session at 7:33 PM. Exited ES at 8:02 pm, and adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm. Motions by Moe, seconds by Paul. All approved.