

SB minutes February 11th, 2019

Present - Moe Brigham, Lindley Brainard, Paul Vallee, Chris Jarvis, Dave Eddy, and Greg Maggard.

Call to Order (6:00)

Approval of Agenda - No additions to the agenda. Brigham move approve the agenda as written. Vallee, second. All in favor.

Public Comment or Inquiry - None

Appointments

6:15 Jose Lazo, Energy Committee -

- Lazo brought information to the board regarding the activities of the Energy Commission.
- New faces on the Commission are a very data driven group.
- They have gathered information regarding charging stations (info in packet), the future of transportation (biking, walking, driving).
- Jarvis spoke regarding his own research, including the annual costs, and the State's plan to open a rest area at the Bethel exit, including 22 charging stations.
- Brainard pointed out that while Bethel is not a traditional destination town, there are significant number of people who come to Bethel to work for 4-8 hours a day. And that there is value to Bethel being ahead of the curve with this type of investment.
- Brigham questioned how many people can really afford an electric vehicle.
- Jarvis noted that the SB needs to make a decision about moving forward, keeping in mind that there are no financial guarantees.
- Lazo said that the board needs to keep in mind that for the first five years there will be no cost to the town (grant covers everything but the lighting for the first five years).
- The "drop dead" date is mid-April. But Lazo pointed out that this is a revolving grant, and will be available for several years. He feels that Bethel has a very good chance of getting the grant, since there are no charging stations in town yet.
- Lazo will come to a future meeting with specific plans for the charging station, and the Selectboard will make a final decision. Jarvis noted that the board certainly appreciates all the work that Lazo and the committee have put into the grant.
- Vallee, Motion to have Lazo put together a plan including location. Brainard, second. All in favor.

Report, Motions and Ordinances

Water Disconnection - 111 Cherry Lane Kiernan Haupt -

- Continuation of discussion from last meeting. Trailer on the property is empty.
- Maggard noted that there is nothing in our ordinances that indicates that residences have to be connected to the water system. The being said, there is also nothing that allows properties to be disconnected from the system.
- Maggard acknowledges that as the Water Commissioners, they have some attitude in making a decision of this type.

- Discussion regarding the difference between a “disconnect” and a “vacancy rate”. Maggard does not recommend physically disconnecting the property, but he agrees that the language around the water ordinance needs to be cleaned up.
- Maggard is asking for a decision regarding this specific property, and permission to move forward with developing a policy to help make decisions of this type.
- Maggard will bring a draft policy back to the next meeting for the board’s consideration.
- Brainard, motion to leave the water rate to the 111 Cherry Lane property at “vacancy rate” (no abatement). Vallee, second. All in favor.

Fee Schedule Revision - Review and Approve

- Dietre Feeney and Maggard have tweaked the fee schedule to include family groups, and large groups.
- Feeney noted that there is no history of charges for groups, and the charges over the past couple of seasons has been erratic. She has connected with groups who have used the pool last season, and they all understand the need to have a consistent fee.
- Motion to approve the fee schedule, Brigham. Vallee, second. All in favor.

Homeland Security Grant - Review and Approve

- Therese Kirby and Chief David Aldrighetti have been working on putting the grant application together.
- Brainard, Motion to approve grant application. Brigham, second. All in favor.

Minutes and Communications

1.) Selectboard Minutes, January 28th, 2019. Brigham, Motion to approve minutes as written. Vallee, second. All in favor.

2.) Town Manager’s Report - (in packet)

- Municipal roads general permit - this new permit requires a new “erosion inventory”. Maggard has started work on it, referencing an erosion inventory from two years ago. It is due September 2020.
- Tim had an annual inspection on the sewer plant. The state rated the plant “excellent”, and a model for plants across the state.
- Machinery woes at the highway department, and fixes are ongoing.
- Maggard is hearing far fewer complaints regarding snow removal, due in part to the extra staff person.
- Bilodeau agreement is ongoing. Mary Floyd is working on approaching private donors. Maggard will be meeting with Steve Libby, and the appraisal should be happening soon. Maggard will share developments as they happen.
- The buckets on Main Street are for the sidewalks, and are not intended for private consumption, and need to be conserved due to salt shortages.
- Discussion regarding one downtown building and ice build upon the sidewalk outside the building.

3.) Constable's Report

- Jarvis stated that he is a little confused about the form of the constable's reports, and would like some clarification. Maggard is in touch with the creator of the software, and can get that clarification.

4.) Tax Sale Information - (info in packet)

- Review of information in packet. Specifics regarding each property.
- Vallee asked about where it is posted. It is posted according to legal requirements, and Kirby has notified local realtors.

5.) Updated Delinquent Accounts- (info in packet)

- includes information on payment plans, and dates for delinquencies.

6.) Other communications

Any other business necessary to come before the board.

- Deputy Public Health Officer Jarvis has followed up on the ongoing complaint, and filled out the necessary reports. He noted that the state's website does not provide much guidance on timelines for repairs.

Other business - none.

Adjourn. Brigham, motion to adjourn 7:32. Brainard, second. All in favor.