

Stockbridge Board of Selectmen -Draft

September 5, 2019

7:00 PM

Present: Lee Ann Isaacson, Mark Pelletier, Dave Brown, Lori Scott, Tom Warhol, Paul Hummel

The meeting came to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Tom Warhol from Perfect Pitch, LLC attended. Perfect Pitch has been contracted by the town to provide consulting services to assist with development of a comprehensive economic development strategy and marketing plan. Tom presented a suggested plan and schedule of activities to help move forward with taking advantage of grants and technical assistance opportunities to facilitate our planning process. The schedule is a multi-year view of next steps. He also provided recommendations for potential recreation based projects. The Board expressed interest in aligning the campground activities with this process. **Action Item:** Tom will be reaching out to the VT Council on Rural Development on the town's behalf to determine what their schedule is to begin on next steps.

### **Road Report**

Gaysville Bridge planning and data gathering has begun. Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission provided an initial questionnaire to the town. Dave reviewed the questionnaire with the board and they approved sending this information forward to Two Rivers. **Action Item:** Dave to submit questionnaire answers back to Two Rivers.

Dave has engaged the state to engineer a plan to fix the bridge on River Road by Lilliesville. **Action Item:** Once plan is recommended Dave will come back to the Board with details.

Clean up for below the Town Line Bridge has been under discussion with FEMA and the town of Bethel. They are working through determination of clean up responsibility and a go forward plan. **Action Item:** Meeting is planned for final decision and schedule, and a conference call including FEMA program managers from both towns will be held if needed.

22 roads were damaged during the 4/15 flood this spring. At this time 16 of those roads have been repaired and the 6 remaining are underway and should be completed very soon. FEMA has provided a program manager who is meeting onsite biweekly to help guide us through this grant process and necessary documentation requirements.

The new fire truck is due in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October.

A Grant has been obtained to improve Lyon Hill Road to Whitcomb Hill.

A Grant has been obtained for a Leaf Blower that will allow the highway department to clean out road debris prior to road grading work. It can also be used to clean out blocked culverts. The grant did not provide for the total cost and the Board approved the remaining 3,200 out of the equipment fund.

Paul Hummel attended to express concerns about the condition of Laury Rd. He explained that the road is rutted and that cars are having difficulty getting up and down. He also shared that the ditches on the side of the road are getting worse. **Action Item:** Road crew will review the road condition on 9/6.

### **Correspondence**

The Board reviewed the revised tax rate. Mark made a motion to set the tax rate at the rate sent by the state. Lee Ann seconded and the revised tax rate was approved. The Town Clerks office is working on preparing the revised tax bills. The goal is to have them out by the end of September, but certainly before the next installment due date of 11/15.

The Board reviewed the ECS Excavating and Landscaping Contract and determined that they want more discussion with Dave. They have also requested that Lori reach out to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to get an understanding of the levels of insurance that they require their contractors to carry. **Action Items:** Lori to reach out to VLCT and report findings back to the Board. Dave to review the contract with the Board.

Keith Szpulecki let the town office know that he is communicating directly with the RSUD board to answer his remaining questions on the resolved tax issue.

Lee Ann provided update on the complaint on the Santos property in Gaysville. Dan Levy the Town Health Officer is visiting the location and evaluating the issue. He will provide recommendations to mitigate.

### **New Business:**

The Board discussed the need to have a comprehensive and consistent communication strategy and plan to get information out to the town when needed. They identified that there are numerous communication channels, but we need to have an official mechanism for this. **Action Item:** Lori to investigate and report back to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Lori Scott, Town Clerk