

## Stockbridge Board of Selectmen -Draft

December 3, 2020 7:00 PM

### Zoom Meeting Info

+1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 853 2987 1207 Passcode: 865995

**Present:** Lee Ann Isaacson, Jim Shands, Mark Pelletier, Lori Scott, Keith Spulecki, Dave Brown.

Mark called the meeting to order.

**Minutes 11/19/2020:** Lee Ann read the minutes from the last meeting. Mark motioned to approve. Jim motioned to approve with minor changes. Lee Ann seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Keith Spulecki was in attendance.

**Additions and Deletions to Agenda:** Mark asked for any additions to the agenda. Lee Ann asked Lori to add follow up discussion of Justice of the Peace. Lori made the addition.

**Road Commissioner's Report:** Dave Brown gave an update on the mutual aid agreement. Dave talked with Ryan Whitaker, who has filled in before. Ryan would be available. Jim asked if Ryan has a CDL and Dave said yes. Dave also called Ray Harvey and asked him if he would assist. He said, yes, with his truck. He'd be paid as a vendor. Jim asked if Ray a tandem or six-wheeler with a plow. Dave said no, Ray could use his 550. Assistance from Mark is also a possibility. Dave clarified that the state was making sure towns had a plan if needed. Lee Ann asked Lori if Ryan would need to be added to town insurance. Lori said yes. Jim asked if Ryan would act as an employee or contractor. Dave said employee. Lori stated that would cover him being on our employee roll. Lee Ann asked if Ray Harvey would be a contractor. Dave said yes, the town has Harvey's insurance information on file.

Dave stated that the tires on the tandem were worn down. A rear tire was particularly bad. The winter tires were going on, but the old tires need to be capped. The cost will be approximately \$200 apiece. New tires are around \$539 apiece so the caps will work just as well. That will come from this year's tires and chain budget.

Dave will put together a grant to fix the erosion areas on the class 3 road from Taggart Hill to Spiegel Rd. He also wants to work on the culvert and clean out the end. There will be a hydraulic study on the culvert. A bigger culvert may be required. An upgrade would be a separate part to the grant. The rest would be under the Better Road grant. Dave would like Richard (Lunna) to mark out a right of way. Mark agreed. Dave said Mr. Labadie's boundary markers are off the road, in the right of way, and would have to be moved. He thinks the only way to legally move them would be by having a registered land surveyor map it. Jim agreed. **Action Item:** Have paperwork ready to sign at board meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion ensued about "witness trees", corner boundary markers, as not reliable markers when the town is doing a lot of work in the area. Mark stated that the town would need a survey for more exact boundaries when doing work. Dave stated money would come from 2021 purchased labor.

Dave said the town got \$19,000 from the Agency of Transportation for class 3 roads. Dave is hoping to use that money and Better Back Roads Grant to upgrade the boulevard to stop sliding.

Gaysville Bridge—The Gaysville bridge needs to be shut down for one day so a detailed inspection can be done. It was determined that the school bus would not be affected but the WRVA needs to know. A sign will be put up in advance of closure. Dave passed on all the information regarding work done by the town on the bridge to the engineer.

Road Erosion—It was advised that we do another road erosion inventory in order to bring the town up to date. This includes better mapping. A grant will be needed, and the remainder will be from the purchase labor budget. The Selectboard agreed to have Dave move forward.

Lee Ann asked if the recent heavy rain damaged any roads. Dave said it did not.

Dave and Luke repaired a 40 ft. washout on Blanchard Rd.

Minor warranty repair needs to be done on the International. Luke will go up and wait for it.

Repairs on Bridge 5 will be done to end constant potholes.

Roadside Mowing--Discussion on when to do it to avoid a second mowing, cost of buying our own equipment \$85000 used vs 132,000 new, weed whacking around guardrails, bridges, etc. Part-time staff needed. Selectboard raised concern over further burdening taxpayers.

Garage maintenance--Painting needs to be done. Dave will get estimate. Based on previous cost, Jim said to add \$3000 to the budget. This will be a summer project. Possible replacement of furnace for the garage which is not working efficiently. Selectboard agreed to move forward and have Dave look at prices.

**Public Communication:** Keith Spulecki wanted to know what the Selectboard is doing regarding the vote for the dissolution of the Rochester Stockbridge School District. He was advised that the topic was on the agenda. Jim stated that the board has received the petition. Mark stated the board was working on it.

Keith shared his concern that the delay in removing Stockbridge from the union will cost the Stockbridge community money that is continuing to funnel into the Rochester school. He stated that the school board continues to bring in members of the Rochester community to help make decisions, leaving Stockbridge out.

Mark stated that the Selectboard and School Board are separate entities. Nothing could be done by the Select Board until a Voter petition was sent forward, which has now been done. The board is aware of time constraints and is working out how to continue, including being aware of Covid related changes coming from Montpelier. Mark reiterated that the school topic was on the agenda.

Keith voiced his concern that the Select Board of Rochester is taking a much more proactive stance in making sure their voices are heard by the school board. And that Stockbridge is at a disadvantage at this point.

Mark restated the board has been discussing it and phone calls were made where it was explained that the only way the Selectboard can get involved is with a petition. The petition is in. The board is obligated to move forward with the vote. Stockbridge will have a meeting and a town vote in alignment with the statute.

Keith gave an example of possible overreach from the Rochester Selectboard regarding the sale of the school building. Jim thanked Keith for attending the meeting and stated that he wishes to build a relationship between the School Board and the Selectboard.

Mark again stated that now the town will have a vote. Jim asked how to engage with the School Board. Keith said the town needs to show it is ready to dissolve the merger. Keith stated that the Rochester Selectboard is already involved. Mark said Stockbridge is following protocol.

Lee Ann asked for information from the petitioners to share with the town. Jim wants to see the towns work together.

Board requested to move on.

Lee Ann stated that meeting must be warned by the December 16<sup>th</sup>. **Action Item:** Lori to confirm dates with Sec of State's office.

It was agreed that the creators of the petition--Keith, Joanne, Charity and Katelynne should create the details for the informational meeting.

**Action items:** The board will invite Jamie Kinnarney to next meeting.

Discussion about the process and timeline and questions around the voting process during Covid arose.

**Town Meeting Planning:** The board discussed the possibilities of using zoom, location and accessibility. Discussion

tabled awaiting more info from Montpelier. **Action Items:** Lori will call the Tunbridge town clerk to see how they are holding their special meeting. Mark will call the DLCT. Lori will email the four petitioners to get information for voters.

**2021 Budget First Draft:** Lori presented the rough first draft of the 2021 budget using current taxes, revenue and expenses. Covid has caused unforeseen expenses. Discussion took place surrounding a financial agreement with Rochester on New Boston Rd. Revenue budget is very conservative. There was discussion about how to fund the town audit. Building maintenance funding will be added. Budgeting for digitizing the land records and funding for a sheriff was discussed. Draft budget is only \$5000 over last year. **Action Item:** Lori will talk to Dave about removing the trees on New Boston. Jim will call GMP about streetlight incentives.

Jim moved to adjourn. Mark seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.

Kelly McDermott-Burns, Asst. Town Clerk

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