

## Stockbridge Board of Selectmen -Draft

March 4, 2021 7:00 PM

### Zoom Meeting Info

**+1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 865 0149 8826 Passcode: 863224**

**Present:** Jim Shands, Lee Ann Isaacson, Zach Cavacas, Lori Scott, and Dave Brown

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Road Commissioner's Report**—Dave said there was enough sand and there was more use of salt with the icy conditions this winter. He reported that there was a new hole on the Gaysville bridge that can be patched. That will be done next week. Dave said the 550 truck needed work which they did. He said it was 4 years old and they could probably get a couple of more years out of it. Jim asked how it has held up over the years. Dave stated that it had some recurring issues. Jim said it is overloaded and not up to the job. Dave agreed. Jim and Dave discussed getting Luke more comfortable with the bigger truck over the summer. Dave plans to get the road posted signs up on Monday. **Action Item:** Dave will get the road list to Lori.

Jim and Lee Ann said they had not had any complaints this winter and thanked Dave and Luke for the great job they did. Dave said he had some complaints, and he had some ideas on how to make it better. Dave received a grant for new roadwork signs and cones and will be purchasing them next week. He also got a grant to improve the end of Stony Brook Rd. Lori asked Dave to let her know when the work was to start in case to ensure cash flow.

Jim moved that Lee Ann Isaacson be the new Selectboard Chair. Zach Cavacas seconded. Lee Ann accepted and is the new Chair.

Lee Ann began with Town positions that needed to be filled. She stated that she would continue as Zoning Commissioner.

Lee Ann acknowledged new Board member Zach Cavacas. She said the Town needs a First Constable and Second Constable. Jim said Lister positions were open. Lori said Janet Whitaker won the write-in vote but did not want the position. Zach is resigning his Lister position due to his new Selectboard position being incompatible with the Lister role so there are two openings.

Lori stated that in addition to Covid precautions, Beth's work schedule this year has prevented her from coming into the office as much as usual. There is a lot of Lister work to be done before April 1<sup>st</sup> and before the tax bills can be issued. She has offered to help Beth. The Lister role requires a great deal of computer work and Beth will need to train someone.

Lee Ann shared her concern that there were many unfilled key positions in the town. She would like to have a list of the skill sets needed and the time commitment available for possible candidates.

Zach said the time commitment for Constable is small, but the work is unappealing, and the position may be hard to fill for that reason.

Jim asked if someone could be hired for the Lister work. It was agreed that the work is critical and should be completed. **Action Item:** Lori will investigate whether someone can be hired. She will also call NEMRC to see if they have resources to help do the work and possibly assist with any training,

Lee Ann suggested putting an ad in the paper with critical positions that need to be filled.

**Item:** Lori will ask Beth to help create a job description for Lister.

Zach suggested Corey Novotny for Constable. **Action Item:** Zach will contact Corey.

Lori said the other positions have been filled with write-ins. Linda Lunna was short one vote and needed to be appointed to the Cemetery Commission. Jim moved to appoint Linda Lunna to the Cemetery Commission. Lee Ann seconded. Linda was appointed to the Cemetery Commission.

Lee Ann said Kelly McDermott-Burns needed to be reappointed to Assistant Town Clerk and Jim added Dave Brown. Jim made a motion to reappoint all incumbents. Zach seconded.

Lori reminded the Board that the current ECFiber Rep Josh Trudeau had indicated that he had been unable to attend the recent meetings due to work and business priorities. Jim stated that EC Fiber has completed all the connections in Stockbridge and that if Josh wants the position, he should have it. Jim does not think it will influence EC Fiber.

The Agent to Convey Real Estate position is open. It was determined that there was no conflict with Lee Ann taking the position. **Action Item:** Lori will create a new list of appointments and send out the letters to the current incumbents.

Lee Ann has no update on the noise ordinance. She has spoken to the lawyer's office regarding the ordinance and the personnel policy. Lee Ann is also working on the benefits summary addendum to the personnel policy.

Lori questioned whether all policies should be available to the public and posted on the Town website. Lee Ann said that the Personnel policies were internal documents only. Zach thought the noise ordinance should be posted and Lee Ann agreed.

Lee Ann suggested Zach read the last year's Selectboard Meeting minutes to get familiar with what the Board has been working on. **Action Item:** Zach will read the minutes.

Zach asked about the Gaysville Campground update. Lee Ann updated Zach on the grant application and what the Board's involvement had been in the process. **Action Item:** Lee Ann will email the pertinent documents to Zach for review.

Review of orders was postponed.

As an addition to the agenda, Jim brought up the school revote. Lori is waiting to hear back from the town's attorney with advice on the Selectboard's responsibility with a revote petition. Janie Feinberg requested information on starting a petition and Lori shared the same information that she shared with the previous petitioners. Jim suggested that the Selectboard write a letter to the editor expressing their concern over the dissolution of the merger. Discussion ensued over the vote and how the Townspeople got their information. The Selectboard stated their concern that the school will close.

Lori pointed out that the Town website posted all the information on the vote. Discussion continued that social media, and the Facebook page wasn't helping to get correct info out to the Town. The

Selectboard discussed options for getting important information to the residents. It was decided that should the revote move forward, the Board would make a statement. Lee Ann voiced concern that Rochester could have their vote which could take the issue out of the Town's control.

Since the Town's Attorney has not yet commented, the Selectboard will reach back out to him. **Action Item:** Lee Ann will call the attorney.

The Board tabled discussion on the benefits summary addendum, personnel policy and noise ordinance until the next meeting. **Action Item:** Lee Ann will send the 3 policies to Zach.

Lee Ann asked Dave Brown who needs a permit for fireworks. Dave said everyone needs a permit which is issued by the Fire Chief.

Dave shared that the Fire Department was offered the Covid vaccine. Four members were vaccinated. He said the Fire Department will begin meeting again next week. Masks will be required.

Lori shared an inquiry regarding a homeschooler who needs to take driver's ed and if the town reimbursed for that. The Selectboard said no, and that the family needed to contact the supervisory Union.

Lee Ann motioned to adjourn at 8:10 pm.

Kelly McDermott-Burns, Asst. Town Clerk

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