TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024
7PM | CRAFTSBURY TOWN HALL

Present: **Alison Blaney, Jim Jones, Bruce Urie |** TOWN CLERK **Michelle Warren;** GUESTS **Rudy Chase, Penelope Doherty, Jeanne Locke, Brian Machesney, Steve Perkins** (Town Highway)**, Road Commissioner Steve Marckres, Christopher Roy** (Newport Daily Express)

Meeting Agenda

Jim called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

- **Action – Adjustments / Changes to Agenda**

  Additions to agenda noted: Animal Control Officer (Game Warden raids her property); NEK Broadband update; Town Garage Bridge Form; Dog Update; Bulky Day Update (Tires).

- **Action – Approve Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2024**

  Bruce motioned to approve the May 21 meeting minutes; Alison seconded. All ayed. Motion passed. Alison motioned to approve the May 28 Special Meeting on Town Authority minutes; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.

- **Discussion – NEK Broadband Update | Rudy Chase and Brian Machesney**

  NEK Broadband CUD Rep Mr. Chase and Alternate Mr. Machesney update on the NEK Broadband and CVFiber merger: both CUD boards unanimously approved the preliminary merger agreement; operate as one CUD. Primary benefit – larger CUD enhances market demographics; "will be a real win for both CUDs." Allows for application of federal BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment) program funding; bigger entity when going to bond market (more favorable rates when borrowing). To fulfill requirements of legislation, have completed preliminary first step and now will build business model. Anticipate final vote toward end of summer. CUD to be called Northeast Central Broadband; agreement notes names will remain NEK Community Broadband in northeast and CVFiber in central and southern VT because of grants. Approval by governing boards required; public hearing to be held prior in ample time for citizen input, questions. Operations logistics: overlap of contract work, makes relatively seamless for future operations; have been assured will have no effect on anything NEK is doing; may enhance – speed up – planned access for Craftsbury. Tentative agreement for placement of cabinet near Dustan Field. Transfer of fiber letter on USDA letterhead; progressing.

- **Discussion – Bulky Day Update | Penelope Doherty**

  LRSWMD Board of Supervisors Member (Craftsbury Rep) Ms. Doherty advised of preliminary approval by the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District executive committee of a $500 grant; will be ratified on Tuesday at next board meeting. Will allow payment for 100 tires (at $5 each; assist with clean-up of those dumped on area roads).

- **Discussion —FEMA Update | Bruce**

  Met; paperwork signed; working way through to mitigation project on Town Garage Bridge and Town Line Road, private property. Will set up a visit to Town Line Road. $457K total in damages.

- **Discussion – Delinquent Tax Update**

  Going well; down to only eight taxpayers outstanding. Going to hold executive session later for candidates for position.

- **Discussion – Gravel Pit Contract | Kurtis & Margot Mellett**

  Postponed. Meeting with Select Board and discuss prior to meeting with Mellett; 9 am Friday June 7.

- **Action – Accept Kent Young's Resignation as of June 30, 2024**

  Bruce motioned to accept the letter of resignation of Kent Young with gratitude for time served; Jim seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.

- **Discussion – Review Applications for Road Crew Position**

  Moved to Executive Session.

- **Action – Electricity on the Common • June 30, 2024**

  Hardwick Electric quote obtained: $2300; finalize approving using ARPA funds and Good Neighbor Funds to cover total $9K project costs. (A little more than $6K from ARPA funding and $3K from Good Neighbor Funds). **Bruce motioned that the Town use the $6K in ARPA funds and $3K from Good Neighbor Fund to cover costs of adding electricity on the Common; Alison seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.**

- **Committee Reports**
  - Planning Commission – Appointment completed.
- **Clerk Report**
  - Dog License Update – Many still coming; formerly more than 30 unpaid; now down to 11.
  - Wolcott Animal Control Officer – informed Town Clerk of an incident at Craftsbury Animal Control Officer's property: had to put down a cow not well cared for; coyotes in boxes as pets. Albany has released her from her position; she holds an appointed position for Town. Alison to investigate and update with full details.
  - P&L – not done yet.
  - **Action** | VT Statutes Annotated – new cost $401.50 for a few books; decide if go online or pay for VT Statutes books; just use online; free up shelf space. **Alison motioned that the Vermont Statutes be available online going forward; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.**
  - **Action** | Approve .44% payroll tax on employee wages starting July 2024; must be approved in accordance with Act 6 of the Child Care Contribution Special Fund. **Bruce motioned that the Town will pick up the .44% payroll tax on employee wage; Alison seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.**
  - RFPs Sent for Audit – no response; grace period exists; difficult to get auditors; many with same problems.
- **Road Foreman Report**

  Action | Approve increase to $8K for project completion; gravel/sand. Sand is up. Haven't fully calculated completion; have lost lots of gravel with flood, etc. Just about $4800-$4900 est; have $6K. **Alison motioned that the Road Crew has $8K plus or minus $1K or less to finish; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.**

  Action | Road Signage on Paquette Road (TH-42). **Alison motioned to purchase the road sign; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.**

- **Weight Permits**

  Jim signed weight permits for Dale Percy, Dana Sweet and Kelley-View Farm, Inc.

- **Executive Session – Select Board Entered at 7:56 pm; Interview Delinquent Tax Collector Position Candidate**

  No action taken. Select Board exited Executive Session at 8:45 pm.

- **Upcoming Projects to Keep on Agenda**
  - Triggers for Opening the Emergency Shelter, Providing Assistance, Activating N2N
  - Group Process: Throw Up Class 4,TH 23, Bruce Awaiting Word from VTrans
  - VOREC Grant: Upgrade Sterling Trailing; Parking Signage - Gina Campoli
  - Appreciation Certificates
  - Electricity on the Common – will walk on the common with two electricians to assess
  - Act 172 Municipalities
  - Assessing Spaces and Needs

- **Other Business & Walk-ins With Business to Come Before the Select Board**

  None.

- **Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn**

  Meeting adjourned at conclusion of Executive Session at 8:45 pm. Next Regular Select Boaard meeting: July 2 at 7 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,



Victoria Hudson
Select Board Clerk