

Town of Woodbury Select Board

March 25, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Select Board Members: Paul Cerutti; Brian Shatney; Michael Gray

Town Officers: Diana Peduzzi-Town Clerk; Brandy Smith-Town Treasurer; Laura Dailey-Assistant TC/Scribe; Patrick Flood- Woodbury School District Board Chair

Members of the Public: Bob Pope; Kevin Spaulding; Randy Cleveland - Swenson Quarry; Norman Etkind; Brett Stanciu-Town Librarian

Media: Griffin Lussier- Hardwick Community Television; Michael Bielawski- Hardwick Gazette

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Adjustments to Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Approve the Bills to the Town: Bills are approved

Approve Minutes from the March 11, 2019 Select Board meeting: Minutes are approved

Swenson Quarry:

- **Act 250 Permit** - Representatives from Swenson Quarry met with the select board (SB) to inform them of the pending Act 250 application for the quarry. Swenson needs to expand the surface area they are allowed to extract granite from and to put in a new access road to the quarry. The expansion of surface area for extraction is necessary to alleviate pressure from the granite extracted in the lower pit of the quarry. Weight from the granite surrounding the pit creates pressure on the granite being cut in the pit and makes the cutting of the stone difficult and is also causing the granite in the pit to crack. The new road would allow easier access to haul the granite from the quarry. This new road would begin on an old road that leads to the swimming hole quarry. There will not be an increase in granite extraction with these proposed changes. There is an Act 250 hearing scheduled for Wednesday, April 3. At 4:30 p.m. there will be a site visit at the quarry. People wishing to attend the site visit will meet at the junction of Fletcher Quarry Road and Cabot Road. Transportation in to the quarry will be provided. The hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Town Library.
- **Paving Upper Cabot Road** – The select board has been discussing applying for a VTrans paving grant for the upper Cabot Road. In light of Swenson's proposal of a new access road for the quarry, the SB sought an estimate for paving to the proposed new quarry entrance; this is just over one mile of road. The estimate came to \$265,387. The maximum payable from VTrans for the grant is \$175,000. Woodbury has \$43,000 in its paving reserve fund but will want to use a considerable portion of that for a future project in the village. Swenson offers to front the town the balance of expense for the paving of upper Cabot Road to be paid back to Swenson in yearly installments from the reimbursement the town receives from Swenson. Estimates for the village will be gathered and terms for the paving projects will be worked out at the April 8 SB meeting. The SB agrees to apply for the paving grant.

Town Treasurers report:

- Brandy presented financial reports to the SB. She transferred \$40,000 from the money market fund for payroll and bills. \$6,136.55 in revenue was received by the town. \$3,349.77 was received in delinquent taxes.
- **Building Reserve Fund** – Brandy requests that the SB approve a reimbursement to the general fund from the town's Building Reserve Fund for last summer's painting of the town hall roof and the resurfacing of the town hall floor. The total for the projects came to \$4,188. The SB approves the transfer from the reserve fund to the general fund. It is suggested that there be an annual appropriation to the Building Reserve Fund in the future and that an informal committee be formed to create a plan for upkeep of the town hall and the town office.

- **Audit Preparation-** It has been suggested by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) that the town hire the services of a financial consultant through VLCT to help Brandy prepare for a future professional audit, which the town has not done since 1991. The consultant would meet with Brandy and assess what practices should be put in place to prepare for a professional audit and then propose an estimate for their work with the town to prepare for the audit. VLCT would charge \$88 per hour for the consultant. SB agrees to have the consultant meet with Brandy and prepare an estimate for this work. VLCT will make the arrangements.

Town Clerk's Report: Diana reported there has been a decline in residents licensing their dogs. So far 60 dogs have been registered; last year at this time there were 200 dogs registered.

Old Woodbury Store Project: Diana has received signatures from the property owners of the store for the Environmental Indemnification Agreement, which was sent on to Lauren Oates, State Hazard Mitigation Officer with Vermont Emergency Management. The title search is still being worked on. The title search is the last document that FEMA needs to process the grant application.

Town Official Appointments:

- **Central Vermont (CV) Fiber-** Skip Lindsay is appointed as Woodbury's representative to the CV Fiber board; Susan Martin is appointed as an alternate rep.
- **Woodbury Fund Committee-** Peter Peltz, Robin Durkee and Grady Neill are appointed to the committee. Norman Etkind volunteers to fill a vacant position on the committee and is duly appointed. John Meyer is also listed as a part of the committee.
- Appointments to the Sylvia Jackson Fund and the Health Officer still await confirmation for appointment.

Woodbury Graded School Discussion and Act 46 Merger: Updates from Patrick Flood

- The Woodbury School District (WSD) board has developed a district budget for FY 2020. There will be a special school district meeting to discuss and approve the budget on May 9.
- The towns involved in the new union district are moving quickly to merge by July 1 of this year despite certain passage of legislation that would give towns a year's extension to do this. The senate version of the legislation has the promise of guaranteed small school funding as an incentive to create these new union districts this year.
- Election of the new union district board will be held on April 22. Voting will be done from the floor and will include all four towns. Phoebe Slater and Kim Silk are willing to run for positions on this board as Woodbury's representatives. On the same evening, immediately following this election, the new board will meet to approve a FY 2020 union budget and the proposed amended Articles of Agreement to be warned for an upcoming Australian ballot vote on May 28. Approval of a new union school budget will supersede the Woodbury school district budget.
- **School Lease Committee-** The SB and WSDB have agreed to pursue a lease for the town owned school. The school lease committee has met twice and is sending information to the two lawyers representing the town and the school district respectively. It is felt that the SB and WSDB should agree to the terms of a lease and then share the lease with the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) for their input. There has been resistance to a lease by the OSSU and the committee that is working on the Articles of Agreement but at present there are amended changes in the articles that accept a lease.
- **Notice of Upcoming Meetings:** Many people in town do not know what is going on regarding this merger and do not know of the meetings scheduled where the electorate are required to vote on the new union district. Hardwick school district put out a mailing to its residents... could the Woodbury school district do the same? Patrick will notify the WSDB about this request.

Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department Building Project- The fire department is in the process of developing the Aronson property, which it owns, in the village. This property is adjacent to the old store and across Rte. 14 from the post office. They wish to maintain their present buildings and build a new structure on this property to

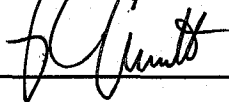
give them more space for their operations. The fire department is working with representatives of the Woodbury and Calais select boards and knowledgeable residents from both towns to help come up with a plan that is limited in cost and meets the needs of the fire department. On April 18th this committee will meet with architects to begin ideas for design and the cost for this new structure.

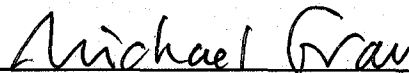
Town Highway Report:

- **Paving Grant/Upper Cabot Road-** Discussion continues from the Swenson Quarry discussion earlier in the meeting. An estimate for paving the bottom of Valley Lake Road in the village area is presented. The estimate is for \$20,000. It is also felt that repaving the "street" in front of the town hall, fire station and post office is needed. Michael will get an estimate for that area and the SB will discuss this further at its April 8 meeting. The town cannot get a paving grant for this area as neither section being considered is a Class 2 road. The village area would not be paved this coming summer but hopefully the following summer if and after the road erosion work is done. The paving grant for the upper Cabot Road is again discussed. It is planned to have the VTrans grant filled out and ready to go, an estimate for the village area and a sense of what amount the town would ask Swenson Quarry to loan for the upper Cabot Road project. Brian mentions that the SB should probably ask the town to contribute to the village area paving.
- **The Road Erosion Inventory-** This inventory, mandated by the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP), has just been completed for Woodbury by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. The town now is required to create a five year plan to remedy all high priority hydrologically connected segments of road. There are 25 segments listed in the inventory; five of which have already been improved since the field work for the inventory was done. The town will pursue grants through the MRGP Grants-in-Aid and the Better Roads programs to help fund this work. Much of the work indicated in the inventory only requires proper crowning of the roads and the removal of berms on the sides of the road. Discussion also includes the need to look at the town's Class 4 roads as the town is also responsible for erosion on these roads under the MRGP.
- **Town Highway Logo-** Michael shared a new logo to be placed on the town highway equipment. The logo is based on the image on the town's letterhead. Brian asked if the church on the logo could look more like the South Woodbury church. Michael thought it might be too late but would check.
- **Road Crew-** All is going well with equipment and crew despite the crazy snow storm on Friday, March 22. Plowing was difficult with the soft muddy roads and heavy wet snow. Mud season is also here. The road crew is able to get gravel from a local quarry and has been hauling to have gravel on hand. Paul requests the road crew remove the large banks of snow in the village by the post office and the island to free up parking spots.

Select Board Adjourns at 8:27 p.m.

Date Approved: 8 April 2019

Paul Cerutti 

Michael Gray 

Brian Shatney 