

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Laurie Colgan and Christopher Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Rich Phillips, Anne Miller, and Nick Seifert (Energy Committee); David and Renee Lawrence; Robin Schunk and Jonathan Williams (Planning Commission)

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: none

Public Comment: none

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes from April 2, 2019.

Model Communities Program: Rich Phillips presented the costs for the mailing that the energy committee is sending to notify people about a public meeting and dinner. The cost will be no more than \$388. He estimates that the dinner will cost \$200. The annual budget for the energy committee is \$500, and they have approximately \$500 in their designated fund. Chris moved to reimburse Marshfield's share of the cost of the Model Communities Program kickoff event, half from the Energy Fund and half from the annual Energy Committee budget, up to \$600. Rich Baker seconded – all in favor.

EV Charging Station: Nick explained that the grant application is due at the end of the month. The application requires a Municipal Resolution that the town will match 10% of the costs. The highest cost will be \$65,000, and we have a grant and donations of \$4,000 towards the local match, so the most the town would need to contribute would be \$2,500. The Energy Committee feels that the \$2,500 should be considered a capital improvement that could be included in the Old Schoolhouse Common budget next year. The rates that people pay to charge will be structured so that the Town will not have to pay for any of the ongoing costs. Chris moved to sign the resolution for the Electrical Vehicle Supply Equipment grant, provided that the resolution reflects that it is the Selectboard rather than the voters who are approving the funding. Laurie seconded – all in favor.

Old Schoolhouse Common: The Selectboard asked Rich Phillips about the sign in front of the Old Schoolhouse. He feels that the businesses in the building should be allowed to have signs for their businesses, on a separate structure. He noted that at the time of the building rehab, there were more businesses in the building.

Marshfield Dam: Nick stated that there is concern that Green Mountain Power is going to do work at the dam that is outside the scope of the Certificate of Public Good. The concern is that they will make it impossible to use one of the spillways. Michael Billingsley is trying to find a way to keep them from doing any work until the case has worked its way through the Public Utilities Commission. Mr. Billingsley would like the Town to sign on to an injunction to stop GMP from doing any work. Rich Baker stated that he doesn't know Mr. Billingsley's qualifications, and

he would want to hear from an expert before he makes a decision. He noted that the work that is being done is to make the dam safer, and he doesn't want to do anything that will delay getting the work done. Nick just intended this to update the board, and he will come back when he has more information or a specific request.

Bunker Hill Circle: Dave and Renee Lawrence attended the meeting to discuss the damage to their property that they feel is caused by the town road. They feel that the road is higher than it used to be, and that it is causing water and silt to enter their garage and damage their property. They gave the Selectboard a letter and photos describing the damage, read the letter to the Board and people in attendance, and showed the Board a video of water entering their garage. Chris stated that he met with the Road Crew and Shauna Clifford, the district engineer from VTrans District 7. They could not come up with any solutions. The Lawrences feel that the town should lower the road to the level it used to be, and put in a storm drain. Chris feels that the water is coming from other properties. He stated that the town tried to slope the water away from their property. They said the water is not running away from their property. They stated that they put the garage higher than the road but now it is lower. Chris stated that the former Road Foreman says there was a natural ditch or swale where they now have their garage. They disputed that, saying there was never a ditch on their property. Renee stated that the Board can take some time to discuss it, but time is limited. Their letter indicates that the Town has three weeks to deal with it. Chris admitted that neither he nor the road crew know how to solve the issue. He explained that the Town actually owns the piece of property that is the road, rather than having a right of way, so the town can do what it wishes to do, without permission. David suggested that the town should remove 18 inches of material from the road. Laurie stated that one of the suggestions is to do considerable ditching, and making the road a one way road. David again stated that the town should put in a storm drain, and hire a company to have it sucked out after every few storms. He wants his driveway, his stone wall, and his concrete fixed. He feels that there is thousands of dollars' worth of damage. Rich Baker feels that there are separate requests from the Lawrences. They want the road fixed, and they want damages fixed. He feels that the damages are a question that we should discuss with the Town attorney to see what our liability is. Laurie thinks we need to look into it with someone who has more excavating and engineering experience. Chris explained that he did visit the site and go over it with Shauna and the Road Crew. They discussed issues that may or may not work. He feels that we will have to just try something to see if it will work. He will go up and look at the site again. David stated again that he wants his property fixed. He wants to know when he will hear anything. Laurie stated that the Board could put it on the agenda of the next meeting. Laurie feels that we need to get professional advice so that we are not wasting money and time. Rich Baker agrees with Laurie that we should hire a certified civil engineer to do an assessment.

Rich Baker moved to hire a certified civil engineer to go out to the site and provide an assessment. Chris asked if we should have him look at the whole circle. Laurie agreed, stating that we could have them look at all of the options, including making it one-way. Chris will find out if the road crew can grade the road to keep the pitch away from their property. Laurie second – all in favor. The Lawrences stated that they expect to hear by Friday April 19th that the Board has contacted an engineer.

Radon: Chris met with a second contractor tonight and he will get us a price. We are still waiting for a price from the first contractor. The new contractor suggested doing more testing, down in the stage and gym areas. He stated that the results that we have were low enough that we might be able to use air handling units, but he feels that we should get tests for the other areas. Bobbi will order 3 quick tests.

Zoning Administrator: Chris moved to enter executive session with Robin and Jonathan to discuss candidates for the position. Laurie seconded – all in favor. The Board returned to open session at 7:30. The Board will set up an interview or interviews for next week.

Grant Writing Proposal: Jonathan Williams offered to research grants for the Town. He would be willing to spend one or two hours per week researching grant opportunities. If there is a grant that would take much more time to administer, he and the Board could discuss possible compensation, but he would be willing to donate one to two hours per week for the town.

Cemeteries: The Board received a request to sell cemetery lots back to the town. The Board discussed what the policy should be. Bobbi will check to see if there are laws about it. If not, the Sexton can let people know that there are lots available for private sale.

Old Schoolhouse Gym: The Board received a request from Colin McIntyre to change the policy requiring direct adult supervision in the gym. The Board did not change their policy. They are sympathetic but they feel that it is a safety and liability issue.

Old Schoolhouse Common sign: The Board discussed having a separate structure for business signs. Chris will take measurements and a plan.

Local Emergency Operations Plan: Bobbi updated the Board on the plan. She is working on it with Fire Chief Will Schwarz. If there is a special meeting next week, and the draft is ready, the Board can review it at that time. It is supposed to be approved by May 1st.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the April 16, 2019 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
