

December 9, 2021 Danby Select Board Meeting

=M I N U T E S=

Called to Order AT 7:00 PM, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call: Haines, present; White, present; Fuller, present; Powers, present; Bender, present.

Motion to Set Agenda with additions by Fuller/Haines passed unanimously.

Motion to adopt Minutes of November 12, 2021 Select Board Meeting by Powers/Fuller passed with Haines abstaining.

Planning Commission Report: Shelley Taylor was appointed as a second voting member of the Rutland Emergency Management Committee on a motion by Fuller/Haines which passed unanimously. Shelley reported that our local Planning Commission meets quarterly and will begin the new year with a meeting on January 6, 2022 at 6pm. She reported that at the Regional meeting the contractor planning the replacement of the 80 year old windmill on Grandpa's Knob was faced with push-back by some residents from the towns surrounding that area. She advised that Barbara Noyes-Pulling is working on a project concerning Flower Brook headwaters and the surrounding watershed. She also reported that the Joint Hazard Mitigation team met in Mt. Tabor yesterday with Phil Lidstone, Mt. Tabor Selectman, and plans to do more work on Section 5 of the Plan to more specifically identify areas.

Discuss Tractor/mower purchase

Motion to make conditional offer of employment to Robert Halligan for the position of Road Crew Equipment Operator subject to completion of driving record check and pre-employment drug screening was made by White/Haines and passed unanimously.

Road Commissioner's Report: Tom Fuller, Jr. said the International truck had hydraulic lines repaired. He looks forward to the third man on the road crew to deliver even better plowing service during the winter storms and getting caught up on removing roadside brush. Steve Haines thanked Larry and Randy for the excellent job they did on plowing and road clean up during the Thanksgiving weekend storm.

ARPA Funds Report: Mike Powers said there is no new information to date as to what the funds may be used for but advised that all expenditures will be audited so it is important that the funds are spent correctly.

Public Comment: Tracy Porter asked if there was any more thought given to returning to virtual meetings and accused Mr. Bender of "trying to hide things." She also asked if the letter had been sent to the Auditors regarding their dereliction of duties and was told "yes" and that one Auditor planned to meet with the Treasurer on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Board made a line-by-line review of the proposed 2022 Budget. Proposed changes included increasing heating oil for the town office to \$5,000, increasing telephone expenses to \$4,000, returning the amount for software and support to 8,000, increasing the Audit Reserve Fund to \$12,000, eliminating the category for Town Hall since that building was sold, lowering the figure for Listers' salaries to \$12,000 to be more in line with actual expenses, and raising their expense account to \$2,000, doubling the amount for traffic control to \$20,000, increasing Dump Day expenses by \$1,000, lowering County Waste Fee to \$100, raising Disposal Fees to \$60,000, increasing the old cemetery expenses by \$300, increasing the Road Crew wages to reflect negotiated raises to \$160,000, increasing retirement benefits to \$10,000 to provide for contract obligations, cutting Highway Department mileage allowance by \$150, increasing guardrails by \$5,000 for repairs, replacement and additional guardrails, increasing Calcium Chloride by \$2,000, increasing Equipment Maintenance & Supplies by \$5,000, and increasing winter sand by \$5,000.

Old Business: None

New Business: Tom Fuller discussed the requests by Delinquent Tax Collector Douglas White and it was decided that he should meet with him and the Treasurer to be clear on what areas of computer access should be available to him. Tom Fuller encouraged all Select Board members to be involved with the Hazard Mitigation Plan that is being formulated just as he and Bradley Bender have been.

Doug White urged the Board to return to virtual meetings and made libelous accusations directed at Chairman Bender.

Motion by Fuller/Haines to send Letter of Recommendation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on behalf of Rutland County Solid Waste District passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm by Powers/Fuller passed unanimously

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Bradley J. Bender