

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
September 16th, 2019
28 North Main Street**

Present: C. Viens, M. Frier, J. Brown, M. Bard and N. Fish, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: Billy Vigdor, Joan Beard, Allan Thompson, Dan & Laura Brady, Lois & Dennis Plante, Linda & Bob Kasvinsky, Jack & Roselle Nickerson, Dennis Roland, George & Ginger Pierce, and Robert & Patricia Olesen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

M. Bard made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

N. Fish made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the August 5th meeting, the appointment of the Municipal Manager as the voting delegate to the VLCT Annual meeting, and a third class liquor license for Maxi's Restaurant. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Billy Vigdor was present to express interest on serving on the Conservation Commission. B. Vigdor stated he can bring some complimentary assets to the Commission and wants to get involved in the community. Over the years, he has done work on environmental issues. M. Bard made a motion to appoint B. Vigdor for the remainder of a 4-year term ending April 30th, 2022. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Notice of Award for the Perry Hill Culvert Project

W. Shepeluk updated the Board on the award to J. A. MacDonald for the Perry Hill culvert project. There is a culvert on Perry Hill that needs to be replaced and has been assigned a FEMA number. The FEMA estimate for the project was between \$70,000 and \$75,000, and its grant to the Town was based on that. The Town expected that the project will cost far more. The Town solicited bids from several contractors and J. A. MacDonald was the low bidder at \$150,850. The Town will ask for the FEMA grant to be increased accordingly.

VTrans made an announcement at the end of August that the State will no longer accept bids from this company due to issues on projects dating to about 10 years ago. The Town has had no issues with any work performed by J. A. MacDonald on the Main Street Project. J. Brown made a motion to confirm the award of the contract with J. A. MacDonald for \$150,850. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

Consideration of Outside Work by Manager

W. Shepeluk explained that the Town and Village of Johnson are in the process of considering a merger study. W. Shepeluk received a phone call from a consulting firm and was asked if he was willing to spend 20 hours of time to review the consultant's work on the potential merger. W. Shepeluk explained that if he does the work, it will be outside normal work hours and he will be paid for his time. W. Shepeluk told the consultant that he could consider the work only if the Select Board

did not object to his serving as an outside contract. The consultant hasn't actually been awarded the job yet, so the timing or possibility of performing the work is uncertain. W. Shepeluk stated he would not have time during budget season. The Board had no objections and decided to leave the decision up to W. Shepeluk.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS

Roadside Brush Cutting

C. Viens stated that he would like to see some sort of a schedule with regard to roadside brush cutting. He feels the brush growing along the roadside edge is becoming a concern due to visibility issues. C. Viens would like some consideration to be given to hire out the work if the Highway Department does not have time.

W. Shepeluk stated that the challenge is the number of projects that the Highway Department handles and other projects may take priority. W. Shepeluk with work with the Highway Supervisor and Public Works Director on this issue.

Update on Roadside Mower

The Board previously talked about purchasing a mower. The cost is upwards of \$100,000. There is also the possibility of leasing a machine for 5 years at a payment of \$20,230 per year. The Town then could buy out the lease at a future time. The better deal would be to purchase the machine, but it may be problematic if voter approval is not obtained. The Board does, however, have the authority to purchase the machine without voter approval.

A. Thompson stated that the Conservation Commission noticed and appreciated the mowing efforts by the Highway Department this past summer. Owning a machine would increase the ability to mow as needed or which the Commission would be appreciative.

Winter Treatment on Roads

C. Viens had previously expressed concerns about the usage of salt and sand and the impacts to the environment. Constant salting is deteriorating the asphalt at a faster rate, but the safety of people needs to be considered. C. Viens stated he had discussed having the more flat roadways use more sand versus salt.

M. Bard stated that he feels it is an economic issue as well as a safety issue. People need to drive more prudently and if they do, perhaps less salt can be used. There may be different alternatives to salt in the future.

W. Shepeluk stated that the use of salt and sand is proportional to the winter weather. He then went through the numbers budgeted and spent for salt and sand in 2018 and the amounts budgeted in 2019. There is an increase in the cost of materials from year to year. The question is how and where to use less salt. The Town can try to use less salt on flat roads. The Highway crew has a lot of experience and knows the roads and road conditions very well.

C. Viens stated it would be interesting to experiment on some of the flatter roads like Maple Street, Guptil Road and Kneeland Flats. N. Fish stated that it sounds like a salt management issue. M. Frier suggested that a couple of Board members meet with the Highway Supervisor. He also expressed concerns with safety and the long term condition of the roads. M. Frier asked what other Towns in Vermont do and whether they have salt and sand policies in place. W. Shepeluk will explore salt and sand policies in other Towns.

Status of Ring Road

Several residents of Ring Road were present for this agenda item. Mark Frier recused himself. C. Viens was working in that area and had concerns about the Class 4 road. A lot of the ditches are three quarters full with run-off from the road. There are currently 19 residences and more are to be

developed. It may be to the Town's advantage to be more proactive with the aggregate placed on the road and grading.

B. Olesen presented the Board with some pictures taken in the spring. He has spoken with the Public Works Director and Town Engineer as well. W. Shepeluk explained that there is limited maintenance on Class 4 roads and there is no obligation to grade the road. W. Shepeluk expressed concern about treating all Class 4 roads equally.

R. Kasvinsky would like to see the road graded before the material is put on and re-graded. It is uncertain that this can be done as there is ledge. C. Viens stated that if the residents were to bring the road up to Town specifications as a Class 3 road, the Town could better maintain it.

D. Plante explained that there is a bottleneck in one section that is a big problem and suggested placing another culvert on the road. D. Plante expressed interest in seeing how much it would cost to upgrade to a Class 3 road. C. Viens suggested that the residents hire someone to place the culvert and get estimates to convert the road to a Class 3.

W. Shepeluk stated that the Town has limited investment in that infrastructure and the residents should not expect otherwise. The Town may be able to put in a culvert through grant money from CVRPC. W. Shepeluk will talk with the Public Works Director and Highway Supervisor tomorrow to see what else can be done. He also suggested that some of the residents meet with the Town Engineer.

G. Pierce would like to explore what it would take to upgrade the road to a Class 3 and wanted to know the process to get it moving. W. Shepeluk stated that they can stop in and get a copy of the highway specifications or email the Town Clerk. He encouraged the residents to talk with the Town Engineer directly to review the specifications.

M. Frier suggested that the Town work on ditching the road and asked where the Town's responsibilities for the road start and stop. He stated that the road is not crowned correctly. C. Viens responded that the Town is not obligated to put material on the road which makes it difficult to crown the road.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: October 7, 2019