Weybridge Selectboard Meeting

November 7, 2023

Town Office

Present: Megan Sutton, Matt Broughton, William Mayers, Kelly Flynn, Charlie Jordan, Brenda Jaring.

Guests: Connie Landon, Violet LaFountain, Eva Trudeau, Officer Josh Turner, Officer Riley Benoit, Susan Humphrey, Spence Putnam, Mike Roy, Fran Putnam. Absent: Stacey Rainey.

1. Call to Order at 6:58 PM.
2. Cave Road Issues – Megan opens conversation with the 2003 Legal Agreement that was not recorded in the Town Land Records. The Board made the decision to make a new road, it’s a straighter shot off Lafountain Lane / Sawmill Road & Cave Road that is more amenable & softening of the corners that is providing better access to the end of Cave Road, as the State will be putting in a parking lot in for people who want to view the Caves. But this has not worked for the residents, there has been a lot of controversy between neighbors with threats & actions to destroy the roadway and boulders placed. Boulders were moved without consent by a resident. Town Employees are being belittled by residents resulting from this road change & neighbors not getting along. Everyone should be treated with respect; the Board & Employees are trying to find a solution that works for everyone. An agreement needs to be made. The State has an obligation to supply access to the public. People are shredding the fields with off road vehicles that Monument Farms crops by leasing the Land from the State. The newer road makes easier access to Sawmill Road & Cave Road, the next step is to provide clarity to all. 1.)Who will be responsible for the Road Maintenance? 2.) The exact Deed right of ways? 3.) This a Civil Issue between neighbors? Lawyers are diving into the issue to find answers. Lawyers hope to be able to come to a resolution on this issue. Rubin Allen, State of Vermont say they will take care of the Road access. Matt, Road Foreman measured exactly 125 feet to put the Road into Sawmill Road. Signage for the area was talked about at the last Meeting with the State. Next Meeting with the State will be in December. The Town Road ends at Bunny Lane / pavement ends. Intentions from the State need to be put into a document for Road and Parking Lot and it will be clarified by the Lawyers.
3. Garden – Susan Humphrey – Susan Thanked the Board for access to put the Garden in front of the Town Office and presented letters and diagrams of the Garden.
4. Weybridge Energy - Spence Putnam & Mike Roy came to present CEAC a grant that can be applied for in the amount of $4000.00. Spence would like to get this Grant so that they could pool the money with Middlebury, Vergennes & Cornwall to make more of an impact. Spence is looking for approval from the Board. Kelly moves that we give authority to CEAC to apply for the mini-Grant & comply with pooling with other Towns. Bill Second. Unanimous. Kelly asks for an update when up and going. Spence also talks about Energy Resilient Assessments of buildings in Town. Town Office, Garage, Town Hall & Library. Application has been submitted. Megan made Spence point person for information on this. Energy Fund also still has money in it.
5. Comments & Questions – Miscommunication on a Tax Bill & Delinquent Resident being charged 10%. Residents Tax Bill interest to be waived. Will vote on at the December Meeting. Fran Putnam shared her thoughts on Snake Mountain Logging. She shared pictures of the clear cuttings. A. Johnson can do anything they want; they are using acceptable management practices. We need to see if their management practices can be tightened up. A. Johnson is closing the Mill. Chris Bray can be contacted with questions.
6. Town Office – Heating system is failing at the office and needs to be replaced. Matt talked with Fyles Brothers, and they are way behind and can not get to until February. Plouffe’s came out to do an estimate and has not returned an amount yet. We need to check for reimbursements on Heat Pumps & Energy Committee.
7. Highway Business – Matt reports last 2 days they have been blowing out ditches, Grading on Thursday & Mowing Roadsides on Friday. Plow frames are on. Culvert replaced on James Road, Ditching on Rte 23 & Snake Mountain Road. Mowing lawns for the final time this year. Line striping was done incorrectly, instead of going from the Church to the Middlebury Line they went from Church past the Hagar Barn until Matt stopped them, missed Morgan Horse Farm Road completely. Note: The pedestrians & Bike lanes were not put in properly.
8. Budget Preview – Made some changes to budgets, need to get actual for 22/23 and put together the under / overage sheet for accounts for the Highway Budget. Tabled till next Meeting.
9. Approve Minutes from October 3rd – Charlie makes a motion to approve as amended. Kelly Second. Unanimous.
10. Act on Bills – Bill moves to accept the bills as presented. Charlie Second. Unanimous.
11. Office Update – Working on excess funds for Highway Budget, Parcel Maps how often to update, Board thinks every 2 years is fine. Need to contact the Auditors. The Voter Check List needs to be updated. The Board agrees to do this on Tuesday November 28th at 6:00 PM. Brenda will send the Check List to the Board & BCA for review so the Meeting can be kept to a minimum. Question on as to whether to pay the Ambulance or dig deeper into a solution on price increase. What are other Towns doing. Bill Hinman was not sent a letter; he did not have a contract with the Town.
12. Other Business – Ambulance increase. The way things have been handled is not correct with the increases. Megan purposes to do a set amount like some of the other Towns are offering. $8900.00-$9500.00. Isley Library, Megan has spoke to them, everyone on board for $70.00 assessment per household. Warned item at next Town Meeting to see if we can make a Budget Item. Cotton Free Library – Matt Brown has been fixing the foundation Stucco. Tar Paper Shingles are leaking, tarp has been put on roof until new slate can be replaced. Vent put in. Town Hall also needs some Slate on the roof. Some of this is being done by volunteer services. Town Picnic has a $750.00 budget line but lacks community interest.
13. Adjourn – Charlie moves to adjourn. Bill Second. Unanimous at 9:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Jaring, Town Clerk