

Regular Selectboard Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
January 10, 2022
7pm

Members Present: Jeff Cathcart and Diane O’Classen

Members Absent: Dave McKinnon

Others Present: Dave Sabatini, Thomasina Magoon, Cecile Todd, Aaron Todd, Wade Mitchell with his son, Galina Chernaya, Marci Hayes, James Hayes, Jeff Whiting, and Vickee Whiting.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.....7:06pm

Meeting Called to Order by Jeff Cathcart

ADDITION TO AGENDA.....1 minute

To be added under New Business; Vickee with Grant in Aid Income and Jeff Whiting on annual Town Forest Meeting. Cecile requested to discuss South Hill, which will be discussed under Citizens Concerns.

*Jeff Cathcart for informational purposes stated that the Town received a letter which indicated that the Town does not need a town wide property reappraisal.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES.....1 minute

Diane O’Classen motions to accept previous minutes as written, 2nd by Jeff Cathcart.

NEW BUSINESS.....24 minutes

Brandon Area Rescue Squad- Letter received requesting increase in funds for Brandon Area Rescue Squad. Vickee stated \$1500 was budgeted for the rescue squad, prior was \$1200. Vickee feels this increase to \$3,440.00 is a significant jump. Reasons for request are because of; challenge to recruit and retain staff, reimbursement from medicare and medicaid charges, increase commercial insurance cost, increase cost for supplies and medical equipment, and responding where no one to be billed. Vickee stated all town’s are being asked to pay an increase. Thomasina inquired if Goshen’s portion is a percentage of what other towns are paying. Vickee stated that this is something that the board will have to find out. Jeff Cathcart would like to table this for now and have Dave McKinnon call Mr. Stage (rescue squad) to find out more information. Vickee stated that this has to be resolved by the next selectboard meeting. Galina inquired if this would make a change of service if one needs the assistance of the rescue squad. Board stated no.

Interest Municipal Forest- Vickee stated that \$4,000 has been budgeted from interest income earned from Municipal Forest. Vickee stated that the Town no longer has two of the three loans with the Municipal Forest. Vickee added that the CD’s up for renewal, will be renewed with a lower interest rate, both of which means that less money will be earned on interest. Vickee recommends that the line item be changed from \$4,000.00 to \$2,000.00. **Jeff Cathcart moves that the line item “Municipal Forest Income” amount be changed from \$4,000.00 to \$2,000.00, Diane O’Classen 2nd.** Galina inquired what this means for the proposal for using that amount for the Town Hall Renovations. Vickee stated that it will now be \$2,000.00 to be

available instead of \$4,000.00 Vickee clarified that there is still \$4,000.00 for this fiscal year to be used until June 30th. Then the next fiscal year will be \$2,000.00. The board felt that Galina would need to have a petition for this. Marci invited Galina to come into the office tomorrow and she and Rosie will help her with the petition and/or what the next step of the process would be.

Grant in Aid- Vickee reported the Grant in Aid project totaled \$6,138.90 for the Goshen Ripton road work. This was an 80%-20% split, the town paid 20% and received the above amount. Jeff Cathcart stated that the \$30,000.00 received last year for the pull off area work for National Forest use was changed. Previously stated and understood was that money could be used through 2022. Jeff Cathcart was notified from the National forest that money will no longer carry over, that money needed to be spent by the end of 2021. Silver Lake Road and Goshen Ripton Rd are the only two roads that can receive funding from Forest money. Vickee was disappointed to learn of this as she has put in a lot of work for this work. Jeff Catchart stated that bills can still be submitted for last year as well as her hours on the work. Dave Sabatini inquired who is responsible for maintaining the pull off. Dave thought there ought to be parking markers as well for the areas. Marci stated that she was informed by Chris Mattrick that the Moosalamoo board hired Dave Sabatini to plow and maintain several areas and that this would become one of those areas. Marci did not realize that this was a voluntary position and felt Dave should be getting paid from either Moosalamoo or the National Forest. The pull off areas were necessary due to vehicles parking in the road by people to access the National Forest for recreation, this is Forest land, and is not something Town related or that should be funded by the Town. Jeff Cathcart will contact Chris regarding plowing this issue.

OLD BUSINESS.....21 minutes

Capen Hill Expenses Project- Jeff Cathcart stated the cost for the repair for the work came in for the Capen Hill Culvert repair, with employee's wages, supplies, etc. this amounted to \$15,321.54 The expenses was not budgeted in 21-22 budget, Vickee recommended this amount be transferred from the Road Money Market to the Road Checking account. Thomasina inquired how much that one culvert was estimated to cost. No one present could answer this as the bid was for the entire job and no itemized cost per culvert was obtained. Vickee has more information in the office on the expense of the work. Additionally each culvert cost a different amount, this culvert was the largest of the seven culverts. Jeff Cathcart motioned to take the funds amounting to \$15,321.54 and transfer from the Road Money Market to the Road Checking to pay for the unbudgeted repair. Diane O'Classen 2nd. Galina inquired about the equipment rental. Vickee stated it is common in Towns to have two budgets, one for Town and one for Roads. Every time a piece of equipment is used the Road reimburses the Town for the use of the truck. This gets transferred from one account to another. The Town owns the equipment, the Road borrows it, thus the Road budget reimburses the Town for use of the Town's equipment.

BLSG- New Agreement just came in. Jeff Whiting reported as towns join BLSG a legal process to change the name occurs, therefore it was desired to have a name where it would not have to be changed as towns join or leave the district, proposed new name is Otter Creek Watershed Insect

Control District, additionally other language in the agreement was cleaned up for gender neutral purposes and the term equitable instead of equally. Jeff stated that other towns have agreed and signed off on this, Goshen needs to approve and sign the form. Galina inquired if Goshen pays a smaller portion than other towns, Jeff Whiting said yes.

Annual Forest Board Meeting- is due to happen, Jeff Whiting spoke with Andy Hutchins to schedule a meeting. The Selectboard is a part of the Forest Board and needs to be at the meeting. Andy is drafting the forest plan and will need \$2,000-\$2,500 to complete his work for the forest plan. He stated there is a stand of ash that he would recommend cutting. This is on the east side of South Hill Rd and some logging on Church Hill property also to be done, they will be taking logs out on South Hill Rd. Jeff Whiting recommended getting a bond from whomever does the logging. Conversation will happen at Forest Board and with loggers on maintenance of the road and if it will be part of the cost of logging. Cecile felt that it would cost less if the Town does the work to the road rather than the loggers. Wade Mitchell spoke and introduced himself, he owns 32 acres on the end of South Hill. Jeff Cathcart stated that they will address South Hill during Citizens Concerns.

ROADS.....ROADS.....11 minutes

Jim Hayes stated a radiator on the green plow truck will need to be replaced. Current radiator goes from aluminum crimp to plastic which can not be repaired. Jim would like to do this at the end of the season as the leak is not serious. The black plow truck has been repaired and is in good shape. The one ton garbage truck twisted off the drive shaft while on the garbage route, Jim was able to take the drive shaft off and repair the linkage so they could finish the garbage run. Jarred Lowell came up and put in a drive shaft. Jim stated the cost of towing the green plow truck for repair would have been around \$1500. He was able to get Jared Lowell to come up to the Town Garage and work on the truck. Marci, Jared, and himself were able to find the reason why the truck was shutting off while driving it. Both Jim Hayes and Marci Hayes expressed how helpful Jared Lowell was, he offered to assist Christmas Day if there were any issues and he is willing to come up to the Town Garage to do work. This is not common for mechanics to do and is very helpful. Jeff Cathcart inquired about taking the loader tires off to do the brakes. Jim stated Windmill equipment should have the supplies. Jeff Cathcart inquired about having Chuck, the person who did the roller on the grader, come up to take the wheels off. Jim stated that this should happen before May 1st. Jim stated the right drivers are the big issue, but he would like to have all the wheels taken off and done as well as the wheel cylinder. Jeff will get ahold of Chuck and have him coordinate with Jim on when to do this.

CITIZENS CONCERNS.....29 minutes

Cecile inquired with Marci on the status of South Hill Rd. Marci stated she called the woman from the State to start the process of correcting South Hill and she will be on vacation until the 14th, therefore nothing more could be done thus South Hill was not on the agenda. Cecile expressed concern as she has heard from someone in town that the Town is looking at turning South Hill into a trail. Marci stated that this was one suggestion from District 3, that it either be class 4 or a trail. Marci stated in conversation with Brian Sanderson that classifying the road is

part of the process and it sounded to him like it would be a candidate to have it as a trail, this was only a suggestion in conversation. Thomasina added that it has been four months working on resolving this issue, to reiterate Cecile's concerns she stated that the State legally found that South Hill could not be thrown up, the Town moved a section of South Hill road and gated it. She further added that it is really important to keep communication open regarding South Hill and to be thoughtful of those who have property on South Hill. Additionally it was added that the Todd's have been fixing that road for a long time. Thomasina stated that the selectboard should listen to the people that are invested in the town.

Jeff Whiting added that Tracy Wyman did work after logging, then there was storm damage and the Town did some work. Jeff Whiting voiced opposition with turning this road into a trail or throwing it up. Jeff Whiting stated that part of the forest agreement is to maintain the road for recreational purposes. Wade Mitchell stated that he has made maple on South Hill for many years and has won at the Addison County Fair 8 times as best maple. Sugar makers like that hill, that hill makes good maple and it is important, years ago people would come for that maple from all over. Wade stated if this road gets thrown up there will be a lot of sugar makers very disappointed. Jeff Cathcart clarified that the language of throwing up the road being used at the meeting is not accurate, he wants to be clear that this is nothing the selectboard has said and that whatever people hear outside of the board meetings is not relevant, it is what is said in the meetings that is. Marci stated that there has been no conversation with the state on throwing up or closing the road. The intention is not to do away with access because of the importance of accessing Town Forest and the camps. Declaring a trail is not the same as throwing up a road, she further stated that the town has done work on South Hill Rd, additionally the gate was put up by the request from land owners on South Hill due to multiple break-ins and garbage dumping in the past, and the original denied petition from the State to throw up the road stated the road was not to be thrown up but was to continue being maintained as is, which was very minimal, mostly done by property owners on South Hill and loggers, and was not maintained beyond a certain point and closed during winter months. Marci clarified that the intention is not to throw up the road only to correct the road, map it, and classify it. Jeff Cathcart added that perhaps this could be a warned item to spend money to improve South Hill Rd. Cecile inquired if money could come out of the Forest for this, Jeff Whiting stated this is a possibility. Thomasina stated that it would be hard to ask people to put money into a road when there are other roads that need work and serve more people. Marci added that it should be known that if South Hill Rd is improved there will be an increase in dumping and other issues. Last year multiple loads of tires were dumped on South Hill. This is something to consider and was part of the reason for gating and doing less maintenance.

Diane O'Classen added that the issues with South Hill started small and were found out to be a greater issue than expected. Marci stated this began as a 911 issue, then it was found out that the State has South Hill in the wrong location, and then the issue of classifying the altered road section. Diane O'Classen added that they are trying their best and will continue to work with the

community on this. Jeff Cathcart thanked Marci Hayes for doing all the research on South Hill. Wade Mitchell stated that Ethan West has a contract with them to do organic sugaring on South Hill. Thomasina inquired when the next logging will be done. Jeff Whiting stated that it may be in the next few years. Dave Sabatini inquired if the Forest Board allocated funds to work on South Hill. Jeff Whiting stated they will be setting a budget and this will be discussed at the next Forest Board meeting.

Galina inquired about the historic registry regarding the Town Hall; she was unable to find where Goshen was on the Historic Registry. Vickee stated she has the number in the office and for Galina to call her Wednesday. Vickee stated when they did work on the Town Office they had to go through the State Historic Preservation. Jim Hayes stated that he looked at the issue at the side of the building, there is no clapboards on building, it is $\frac{5}{8}$ " 6", to do this right the Town would have to get $\frac{3}{4}$ " 6" and dress it down to $\frac{5}{8}$ " to match the existing. Insulation would have to be added as well. Jeff Cathcart inquired if Jeff Whiting could get Jeremiah Parker's number, he is the person that worked with the Town on the Town Office.

MEETING ADJOURNED.....8:34pm
Motion made by Diane O'Classen, 2nd by Jeff Cathcart.

Respectfully Submitted by Marci Hayes