

Regular Selectboard Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
February 14, 2022
7pm

Members Present: Jeff Cathcart, Dave McKinnon, and Diane O’Classen

Others Present: Jim Hayes, Marci Hayes, Dave Sabatini, Thomasina Magoon, Cecile Todd, Charlotte Reider, Chad Chamberlain, Shari Brown, and Jeff Whiting.

Meeting Called to Order.....7:08pm

Changes to the Agenda.....2 minutes

To be added is Sas Adventure Dinner.

Shari Brown requests for there to be a discussion for clarity regarding Special Events Permit.

Reading of Previous two Meeting Minutes.....1 minute

Diane O’Classen motioned to accept minutes as written for the past two meeting minutes, Jeff Cathcart 2nd.

New Business.....47 minutes

TOWN BRIDGES AND ROAD STANDARDS- Jeff Cathcart stated road standards and fiscal plan needs to be accepted to qualify for future grants. Dave McKinnon inquired if the parcel issue on South Hill is being done. Marci stated that the parcel error is a States issue and does not get in the way of the town officially declaring the small altered route as Town Road. Dave McKinnon stated that South Hill is to be done by Orange Book Standards and in the standards it states to notify adjacent land owners, which the State has incorrect. Marci stated that Rosie and herself can look up the landowners from the office and send out a notification to them. Jeff Cathcart stated the South Hill road adjustment will make a small change with the Town’s road mileage. ***Jeff Cathcart makes a motion to accept the road and bridges standard, Diane O’Classen 2nd.***

CENTER LINE MARKING-Last year the centerline marking was put on hold as the pavement was worked on. Jeff Cathcart inquired if this year the Town should have centerline markings for Town Hill Rd and Carlisle Hill Rd. There is no set date when they come, Dave McKinnon said yes he would like the marking done this year. Cecile inquired what would be done with South Hill as far as a next step. Dave McKinnon stated that all land owners need to be notified that the road in its current location will be added to the Town of Goshen roads. Cecile felt the parcel error was due to the ghost road. Marci stated that the State will be getting rid of the ghost road on their maps. Dave McKinnon stated the Town attorney will be involved to make sure everything is done accordingly. Cecile recognized Marci for working steadily on this issue.

TOWN HIGHWAY FINANCIAL PLAN- Jeff Whiting stated once a year a summary of the budget needs to be submitted for grant purposes. Dave McKinnon signed the Town Highway Financial Plan.

GOSHEN DAM PROJECT-Jeff Whiting stated the quarterly report from the National Forest indicates a projected work plan, noting an extension of the permit for the work on Goshen Dam

for an additional three years, this will put the end of work date for 2026. Jeff Whiting stated that this is a big upset with recreational use especially for the local people as the dam is drained considerably and access is closed to the public. Jeff Whiting suggested getting the Forest Service and Green Mountain Power people to a meeting in town and have citizens be able to bring up grievances regarding this issue. Jeff Whiting also expressed concern with the increased trucks using the roads for the dam project, which has caused damage. Jeff Cathcart will send an email to the parties and invite them to a future meeting.

ADVENTURE DINNER- Dave McKinnon got in touch with Sas Stewart from Adventure Dinner regarding a permit for a Special Event at Blueberry Hill Inn. She gave him all requirements for a Special Events Permit earlier today. A liquor license came through the office for an event of 120 people which brought attention to a possible need for a Special Events from Blueberry Hill. Dave McKinnon stated that due to the overall event having more than 75 people it warrants a Special Events Permit. The ordinance does not say 75 people in one day or at one time, but for an event, even if multi-day. Charlotte inquired if the town has had multi-day events previously and if the count was for the multiple days or for one day? Dave McKinnon stated yes, the town has had multi-day events in which a permit was obtained, there is a precedent set and an ordinance to follow. Shari asked for an example, Dave McKinnon stated the BMW rally at Camp Thorpe, they annually request permits and is a multi-day event. Shari expressed concern that the language of the ordinance is very confusing. Her event is three days, each day having a different event, all under 75 people. She is unsure how this can constitute needing a Special Events permit as there are not more than 75 people for the one event on that day. Shari explained there are 20 people for the first day, 60 people for the event on the second day, and the third day is the same type of event but still only 60 people. She would like clarity as to how one event is distinguished from another event. Shari also inquired with who applies for the event permit, the owner or the vendor? Dave McKinnon stated the Love Trek event from Sas came in as a three day event, regardless of how the event is broken up each day, it is still titled and advertised as one event. Shari stated that by the language of the ordinance she wouldn't have thought to need a special events permit, had Sas not applied for a liquor license this never would have been triggered and a permit would not have been applied for. Dave McKinnon stated that the vendor or landowner can apply, as long as the permit is applied for. Dave McKinnon stated for clarity, the way the ordinance is written, if someone is having one event, over the course of however many days, if there will be more than 75 participants, staff and volunteers accumulated over the duration of that event, a Special Events permit is mandatory. Shari inquired if a liquor license makes the permit necessary, if Sas does this same event next year with no alcohol, would she still need to pull a permit? Diane O'Classen stated that the permit has nothing to do with alcohol being served, it is based on the amount of people for an event. Dave McKinnon stated that this ordinance is for everyone's safety as it makes known of increased traffic, noise, and people that will be expected in town. Shari inquires how this is different from people coming to the ski center or having guests at the Inn. Dave McKinnon stated that the outdoor recreation center is not a planned event, as there is no telling how many people will be stopping in, but a planned

event where there are over 75 people, a permit must be applied for. Cecile inquired if a wedding would need a Special Events permit. The board answered yes, if the host of the wedding is charging money to host the wedding and there will be more than 75 people at the wedding including staff and volunteers then yes, a permit is needed. Shari stated that when they have weddings, they have people stay at the Inn for the weekend and they have breakfast and brunch, does this mean that the weekend is the event, or the day of the wedding. Dave McKinnon stated if 40 people are having dinner and those same 40 people are having brunch the next day, and those same 40 people are at the wedding, the total participants is 40 people, which would not warrant a permit. Marci stated that the inn guest is factored into their already established business, the skiers that visit the recreation center are part of the outdoor center, a wedding is a planned event that draws an increase amount of people outside of who may be staying at the Inn for the ceremony, this is something that isn't a part of their normal day to day business at the Inn, it is a special event thus all those in attendance to the event are to be counted. Shari noted that this is only for events that are charging a fee to attend, she feels this may be unfair. Diane O'Classen stated she has requested a permit for the fireworks and they did not charge. Dave McKinnon agreed, the language could be made better. **Jeff Cathcart would like to grant the permit to Shari for Blueberry Hill, pending payment and to revise the ordinance to make it more understandable for the reader, Jeff Cathcart makes a motion to do so, Diane O'Classen 2nd.** Charlotte inquired if the BMW rally is more than one day and if that is one permit or a permit per day. Dave McKinnon stated they pull one permit and pay per day of the event. Shari stated that Sas has done these events all over the state and has never needed to apply for a Special Events permit. Dave McKinnon stated that the Town of Goshen requires it as it is an ordinance of the Town. Dave Sabatini inquired about the Goshen gallop and other events, Shari stated she would be applying for permits for upcoming events.

Old Business.....16 minutes

SOUTH HILL- South Hill was addressed above.

TOWN WEBSITE-Marci stated the town website would be at no additional cost and that the town has been paying for web services with the fatcow account, she inquired because Vickee asked if there would be a reinstatement fee. Dave McKinnon stated that a few patterns can be done for a site and the board will look at it. In the meantime the site should be put "under construction".

HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR TOWN MEETING- Dave McKinnon stated that the Town can not do a zoom meeting that includes voting per State mandate, only informational. The Board of Civil Authority would need to approve any changes and we are beyond the deadline to move the meeting for this time or to make changes, it can be moved for emergency reasons. Shari Brown offered to use the Blueberry Hill Ski Center. Dave Sabatini inquired if it is heated and has a bathroom facility for say 100 people, Shari said yes. Camp Thorpe does not have heat in the building for use this time of the year. Diane O'Classen inquired about having an informational meeting. Dave McKinnon stated to do an informational meeting everything would be voted on by ballot, the ballots have been printed as well as the warning published. The meeting could be

moved to a later date and outside or can be kept the way it is. Masks can not be made mandatory. Diane O'Classen stated that the lawyer and insurance carrier will be notified due to having an inside meeting. VLCT is suggesting talking with the town attorney and insurance company in the event someone contracts covid from the meeting. Thomasina felt tracking the source of where someone obtained covid is unrealistic. Jeff Cathcart said additionally there needs to be coverage in case something happens such as an altercation between a masked person and an unmasked person. Thomasina inquired if the insurance company would want an additional policy. Diane stated this came as a suggestion from VLCT. Cecile inquired if the Town has VLCT insurance. The Town has Kinney Insurance. Marci feels the current insurance would have coverage. The Town will provide masks for those who would like one, hand sanitizer, hot water for washing hands, air purifiers, and open doors for ventilation as well as the option of being in the kitchen or even outside with someone who would then go and collect their vote. Dave McKinnon stated that the meeting can only be moved if there is an emergency, such as a fire or flooding in the building. Jeff Whiting thought Covid constitutes a health emergency. Dave McKinnon stated the State has lifted the State of Emergency and the counts are going down. The Secretary of State Office also recently stated that Covid is not a health emergency at this time. Marci stated that Rosie called everyone who attended the past three years of meetings to see if people would rather have a remote meeting or an in person meeting. The thought was to get this information early so that if the majority of people expressed concern with having an in person meeting the board could take necessary actions to hold a safe meeting based on what the people were comfortable with. Rosie spoke with some, left messages, and received feedback and found that the majority of people desired an in-person meeting with masks encouraged. Shari stated that she was not called and asked about this. Dave McKinnon suggested having a podium with plexi-glass. Marci thought it would be better for people to remain in the spot they are seated and take down their mask to speak rather than share one space to speak. Thomasina stated that if someone does not feel comfortable with taking off their mask it is very hard to hear, so she inquired if there will be a sound system to help amplify those that are speaking. Marci agreed and stated that the recorder has a hard time picking up voice through masks. Dave Sabatini has mics with an amplifier that he would be willing to provide during the meeting so that someone that wants to keep their mask on can speak through a mic. Thomasina inquired if the mic is wireless or with a cord and if wiping the mic can be done between people. Charlotte inquired about article V. Marci stated the new reports are over in the town report box out on the front porch. Charlotte went to get reports for everyone.

Roads.....4 minutes

Earl's stated that it would take 10 days to repair the truck, there are parts to order, a \$500 deductible, the total cost was around \$7,000.00. Not much has been heard lately on the progress of work on the truck. The other two trucks are working fine. All sand has been delivered. Garbage truck is working, the 4 wheel drive has been fixed, the O2 sensor went and that has been repaired. Marci had to drive really slow from Middlebury as the truck was not working properly last week due to the O2 sensor.

Any Other Business.....9 minutes

Charlotte passed around the report, discussion followed on Article V. Cecile inquired if there was a matching grant for Article V. The board answered no, if this article is passed it will come out of the taxpayers pockets. Dave McKinnon stated that Vickee did some figuring and for every \$1,000 dollars on property taxes, it is roughly estimated to be increased to \$4,000.00. Dave Sabatini inquired why the entire project was decided to be done and paid for in one year instead of spreading this out for a duration of three years. The board stated this was a decision as a response to what was requested by the citizens that came to the meeting months ago. Thomasina felt that this could have been managed better, she thanked Jeff Cathcart for doing all the work on the roads and for what he continues to do. Thomasina stated that this started as a request from the citizens to know what will be done and for there to be better communication within town, not for a large sum to become an article for a vote, she feels this has been handled very poorly. Dave McKinnon stated that the citizens came in adamant for a fix. The citizens were insistent, he agreed, had conversations early on and been more amicable, the results may have been different. The board responded to the citizens request. Marci inquired if a job spread out over several years can qualify for a grant or does it have to be done in one year. Jeff Whiting stated different stages of work can be done over time with several grants. For example Carlise Hill was done like this. Jeff Whiting stated that recent changes of the State, to not do partial payments, makes this more difficult, as the town would be working and paying out for years and not have reimbursement until job completion. Another consideration is that grants are distributed fairly, if a town gets a grant one year, they more than likely will not the following year. The town received a grant last year, it may be a few years until the town can get a grant again. Charlotte inquired if there is a sample ballot. Marci stated in front of the office, outside the Town Hall and inside the office are sample ballots posted for review.

Move to adjourn.....8:27pm

Motion to adjourn made by Jeff Cathcart, 2nd by Diane O'Classen.

Respectfully Submitted by Marci Hayes