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Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road | Goshen, Vermont 05733

REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday July 24, 2023 6:30pm

Meeting held at Goshen Town Hall

Unapproved minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Mathis, Thomasina Magoon, Tammy Walsh and Timmi Moffi, Selectboard Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob West, Diane O'Classen, Luci Stevens, Dave Sabatini, Galena Chernaya, Chad Chamberlain, Marty Fjeld, Lee Baker, Kathy Mathis, Will Mathis, Charlotte Ryder-Smith, Tyler Davidson-Toman, Madine Reed and Leo Zhelnin

Mathis calls the meeting to order at 6:36

Changes to the agenda

Mathis adds Town Website

Official Newsletter

Setting Compensation

Town Meeting for Charter Changes

Flood and Grants

Financial- Addressing transfers between Town and Road Accounts

Magoon moves to approve the minutes from the 7-10 Selectboard meeting. Walsh seconds, all in favor motion carries.

Public Comment

O'Classen thanks Walsh and her crew as well as the Road Crew for all their hard work during the storms. Stevens and Chernaya also state their appreciation.

Chamberlain adds that the Planning Commission recommends Keith Arlund for the permanent Zoning Administrator position.

Magoon moves to appoint Keith Arlund as Zoning Administrator permanently. Walsh seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

West needs to access the municipal buildings for MERP Grant information. Magoon and Fjeld will assist with this.



New Business

Digitizing Land Records- The land records were digitized using ARPA funds. Currently the records are only accessible in the Town Office. Once Fjeld gets settled into his position of Town Clerk he will be leading this project.

Town Zoning By Law Issue- Road Access Permit- Sabatini had applied for a Road Access Permit to formally use a preexisting logging road on his property on Fay Rd, to access a more recently purchased abutting property. The Road Access Permit was given specs by the Road Foreman and approved by the Selectboard in February 2023. At the advice of their Consultant, Jeff Biasuzzi, Sabatini and Moffi were told that using this Road Access Permit would then put them out of compliance with Town Zoning Bylaws. The Bylaws state that each property can only have one access. Biasuzzi felt that the proper place for this permit would be in Ordinances not Zoning. The process for the permit goes to the Road Foreman for specs and then the Selectboard to approve, not the Zoning Administrator or Board of Adjustment. Sabatini and Moffi wrote an email to the Selectboard asking to have this researched and if found correct, amended. Further discussion on this subject. Walsh noted that one problem around town is property owners putting in accesses without specs and permits. This is causing trouble with water runoff on the town roads. Mathis recommended a committee be formed to address both of these issues. The committee will include Magoon, Walsh (interim Road Foreman), Chamberlain (PC Chair) and Keith Arlund (Zoning Administrator). This committee will research and present findings at the August 28 Selectboard meeting.

Emergency Management Flooding- Addison County is now on the list of counties eligible for FEMA assistance. This assistance is for municipalities only, not homeowners.

ROADS

Damages from Flooding- The Road Crew have been working hard on repairing road damage from storm flooding. So far over 90 yards of gravel have been applied to the roads. There was a damaged culvert near Mott's residence that Walsh installed a head wall on and will finish repairing.

Truck Update- Walsh states the black truck will be back from the mechanic 7-25 and has new tires and new brake systems. The tires were rotten from sitting in salt. The total for the black truck is \$2300 for both parts and labor. Mathis inquires if the Town is chasing bad money with these trucks. Walsh responds that she feels \$5000 is reasonable to spend to get both trucks up and running and inspected. The mechanic also felt they were worth fixing. Walsh states that the sander shouldn't be kept on the truck through the summer as this is causing unnecessary rusting. A hopper would need to be purchased in order to spread chloride.



Culvert on Hathaway Rd- Magoon met with Jeff Whiting regarding this Grant in Aid project and they have referred to the Orange Book Code on this. This project will require a State permit for stream alteration. Magoon will be meeting with the Beckwith's to walk their property. Magoon feels this project should be bid out and Walsh agrees with this. Mathis inquires about the reasoning for bidding it out. Magoon states that the project needs to be completed by Sept 30 and the Road Crew has 3 other culverts as well as ditching on Goshen-Ripton Rd and Dutton Brook Rd. Magoon will draft up a proposal and get it to Jeff Whiting for review. This will be presented to the Selectboard next meeting to review specs and approve for being put out to bid. Walsh adds that the culvert on Cemetery Hill Rd also needs to be addressed. Walsh will do upkeep on this culvert until it can be repaired. The Town can rent an excavator and replace 3 culverts at the same time.

Town Hill Rd- Magoon is compiling research into this project and is aiming for a Sept timeframe for having information ready to present to the Selectboard. This project will require an engineer due to the fact that the road runs along the stream.

Buildings and Grounds

Backup Generator- Magoon states that the process for installing a backup generator includes first moving the electric meter. There will be cost associated with digging the line and moving the meter. Magoon will have more information on this for the next meeting.

Water- Walsh states that the water for the municipal buildings has been shutting off randomly. There is an air vapor leak somewhere. She has been monitoring the situation and turning on the water in the office once a week. Walsh will schedule a pressure test to check for a leak in the line.

Old Business

Security Camera Policy- Magoon will send the Selectboard the policy draft for any changes before approval.

Personnel System- Mathis states that Vickie Whiting has filled out the forms for compensation and benefits for the State. There needs to be an in depth discussion on how compensation is determined. Mathis has put together drafts of job descriptions which will also require further discussion.

Emergency Services Contract- Magoon states that there has been no further communication on this from Chief Kilpeck. Ethan West has volunteered to take the lead on communicating with Chief Kilpeck on this issue and hopes to have some options for the Selectboard soon. In the meantime Rick Toman has taken on the outstanding Emergency Service bills and all property owners have agreed to making payments. The Town budgets \$5000/yr and sometimes there is money remaining and sometimes it goes over budget. Bills incurred by out of state residents are extremely hard to collect on. Bob West inquires if there is some insurance option available to cover this. Magoon will look into options with the Town insurance company.



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Website- Mathis is continuing to have trouble locating the town website. Davidson-Toman may have some possible fixes for this issue. Magoon states that the website hasn't been great for phone access but on the whole most quirks have been remedied. Davidson-Toman offers to assist with the website and will be working with Magoon and Fjeld on this project.

Town Meeting for Proposing Charter Changes- Magoon has started this research and found that there is specific criteria for meetings and votes. Magoon will reach out to VLCT for more assistance in this issue. Reed states that the Town doesn't have a Charter registered with the Legislature. This was discovered recently when Vickee Whiting was attempting to make federal changes for the Town Treasurer position. Mathis states that another Charter change should be made in order to quit slopping money back and forth from the Road and Town accounts. Mathis states this is a very simple fix of adopting a Chart of Accounts that treats it as a unified body but still has these subcategories under it. This is something to be examined as part of the foundational update.

Magoon moves to adjourn the meeting at 7:44. Walsh seconds the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Timmi Moffi, Selectboard Clerk