



REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday June 26, 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: Phil Bowman, Kathy Mathis, Chad Chamberlain, Emilio Gomez, Dave Sabatini, Bob West, Al Gionet, Luci Stevens, Diane O'Classen, Vickee Whiting, Marty Fjeld, Galena Chernaya, Will Mathis and Maddison Shropshire (ACRPC)

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:40

Changes to Agenda- Thomasina adds Town Hall Rental

Thomasina moves to approve the minutes of the regular Selectboard Meeting of 6/12. Tammy seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Thomasina moves to approve the minutes of the Emergency Selectboard Meeting of 6/21. Bill seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

Phil Bowman- Phil sent the Selectboard the specs they requested for running his power line underground and inquires if they had a chance to review it. Bill responds they have had time to review it. Thomasina states that she also spoke with a line designer for GMP and was told that Phil's contractor does a lot of work for GMP. The board feels comfortable that the specs are all up to code.

Thomasina moves to approve Phil's request to run the power to his house underground. Tammy seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

The Selectboard requests that Phil inform them when the work is about to begin so that they can post it on the website for people to be aware of traffic changes. Phil states he will do that.

Maddison MERP Grant Update- The building assessment applications should be available in the next couple of weeks. Applications will be due back by the beginning of Sept. There needs to be one contact person for the Town that has keys to the buildings, architectural drawings and maintenance manuals. Thomasina will be the contact person. The Level 2 Grant, which is needed for Town Hall and Office, is the full energy audit and requires 5 years of utility bills. Vickee states that she is only able to get 2 years from Keyser and Thomasina says that same for GMP. Maddison states that MERP will accept this due to the fact that most towns are having trouble



getting bills from that far back. The thinking was that Covid may have skewed the data. Bob and Maddison can help with the collection of required information and will aim for having it all together by the beginning of August. Vickee asks about the invoicing for the \$4000 mini grant the Town received. Maddison states she can help with this and there are eligible uses that need to be adhered to. Vickee will send a basic one page invoice. Maddison also informs the Selectboard that ACRPC has been awarded \$7500 to assist Goshen in grant writing and planning commission work time. The \$500K MERP money can also be used as matching money towards other grants.

Thomasina states that Jason, the roofer who was hired to repair the Town Hall roof was confused about the buildings and repaired 4 slates on the Town Office instead. He also informed Thomasina that the chimney on the office is deteriorating and in really bad shape. This will need to be addressed soon. Jason will send another quote to repair the Town Hall roof. Chad inquires about the previously mentioned bullet holes in the roof. Thomasina answers that yes there are bullet holes in both the Town Hall and Office. Further discussion on this subject.

Garbage Contractor update- Thomasina would like to schedule a meeting with Dave and the Selectboard to go over any updates and changes in processes so that this can be put out to the public prior to Dave's first pickup of the new fiscal year. This would cover how the ticket process will work and how businesses will be dealt with now that Dave is responsible for paying the tipping fees.

Vickee Setting Tax Rate- The tax rate will be set on July 10, the first Monday in July. Vickee and Barb will print tax bills the following Wednesday 12 and get them in the mail by July 15. The first payment will be due by August 15 but if any of the process is backed up then the first due date will also change. It has to be 30 days from the time the bill is sent out to the first payment due date. Bill inquires if Vickee foresees any unusual aspects to this. Vickee answers no, they have the Grand List and the Education rate should be coming. Bill inquires if the Town has more kids or less and Vickee responds that she doesn't know. She is unsure if this information was going to the Town Clerk. The Tax Rate is the first item on the agenda for the July 10 Selectboard meeting. Vickee will reach out to Brenda to get the updated child count.

HR Plan- Tabled for this meeting.

Charter Revision- The Selectboard would like to set a meeting date for the Town, possibly in Nov, as an informational meeting regarding making some changes to the Town Charter. These changes would include having the Town Treasurer and Town Clerk appointed instead of elected, eliminating the Auditor positions and moving to using an outside Auditor and CPA. Many Towns are going this route due to lack of candidates and other issues. The Selectboard would like to present this topic for discussion and feedback with ample time ahead of the vote that would take place at an additional meeting. Further discussion on this meeting and date. Bill states the intent



is to have more accountability to these positions. Vickee explains that currently the Charter states the Treasurer and the Clerk have to be residents of the Town and be elected. Throughout the State, towns are having problems filling these positions so quite a few towns are voting to change these positions to remedy these issues. The appointed positions can then be filled with non voting candidates. Thomasina states that if appointed, these positions are still bound by State statutes and can also still hire their own assistants. Thomasina states these changes would also help to create a streamline level of communication within town government. Further discussion on this subject and other possible changes to the Charter. The meeting date is set for Thursday Nov 30. Thomasina will get it on the calendar with more information on the meeting. Thomasina will also get a printable, readable copy of the Charter to have available. Suggestions are made to have the informational meeting and the voting meeting prior to the date petitions to run for office are due. Vickee suggests calling the Secretary of State office and find out lead times and how other towns are handling this. Thomasina will do this.

Open Appointments- Fire Warden.

Thomasina moves to appoint Shawn Martin as Fire Warden for another 5 years. Tammy seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Town Clerk- Thomasina states that the Town Clerk resigned last Tuesday June 20 effective immediately. The Selectboard held an Emergency Meeting June 21 to review process. The position of Town Clerk was posted and the Selectboard required a letter of interest, resume and references. The Selectboard received the only application from Marty Field and have reviewed his resume. The decision is made to meet with Marty in Executive Session at the end of the meeting to ask and answer questions. Further discussion on this process.

OCCUD- Thomasina will touch base with Cassandra to see if she is still interested in this position. Diane inquires if the Town needs to stay in this group or if it's possible to change to Maple Broadband. Thomasina will look into this and report back.

ROADS

June grading will be completed on Friday.

Diane asks who was hired for roadside mowing as she feels it wasn't well done. Further discussion on this subject. Tammy and Will to do a drive around town and examine. Dave inquires about brush work for the bridges. Thomasina will add this to the next meeting agenda. Gravel cannot be done currently as the trucks still are not inspected. The trucks are in such bad condition and Tammy will not allow the road crew to operate unsafe or uninspected trucks. Further discussion on the town trucks.

The Grant in Aid has been designated to install a culvert at the section of road near Beckwith's and Lawton's. This is a clean water grant and will be used to ensure there is no agricultural runoff reaching the stream. Thomasina will also be meeting with Mike Winslow and Jeff Whiting to start working on grants for Town Hill Rd.



Tools, torches and chainsaws-Tammy will be meeting with Matt Richards to purchase equipment for the Town from Ron Richard's estate. This purchase has been approved at a previous Selectboard meeting. The welder will have to be purchased new as there isn't one available in the estate.

The new Christmas tree and flower bed will be installed by the fall.

Technology Update- Thomasina states there is a new server in the Town Office and it contains a folder structure for different town positions. These folders can only be accessed by Town officials/employees with proper security clearance. Thomasina will be working with Chris Morse on the Cloud backup. Further discussion on computer security, access and Administrators.

Excess appliances from Town Hall- Unused appliances such as space heater, etc will be posted for sale. The 3 stoves in the kitchen also need to be replaced with one propane stove. The 2 propane ones in the kitchen are not working and are not hooked up.

The water is currently not working in the Town Hall as of today. Tammy will be contacting the plumber.

Buildings and Grounds- An application was received for the Town Hall rental for the Brown family reunion. This will be on August 5th and Vickee has received the deposit. Thomasina will put this on the website calendar.

All 3 cameras are now up and running. There is an IP address to access the cameras and this can only be done at the Town Office. A policy to view the footage will be put into place. Question regarding whether a camera needs to be placed at the Ballot Box due to Federal regulations. Thomasina will research this further.

Fire Dept Update- The Fire Chief has not been back in touch with the Selectboard regarding a proposal. Thomasina will ask Rick Toman to reach out to the Chief.

Board enters Executive Session at 7:59 to meet with Town Clerk candidate.

Out of Executive Session at 8:46

Action Taken- Thomasina moved to appoint Marty Fjeld to Town Clerk position. Tammy seconds, all in favor, motion carried. Marty was sworn in with Bill administering the Oath of Office which was delivered to the County Clerk the following day.

Respectfully submitted,
Timmi Moffi, Selectboard Clerk



www.goshenvt.org

(802) 247-6455

Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road | Goshen, Vermont 05733