



## REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday August 14, 2023 6:30pm

Meeting held at Goshen Town Hall

Unapproved minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Mathis, Thomasina Magoon and Tammy Walsh

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bob West, Shari Brown, Vickee Whiting, Galina Chernaya, Dave Sabatini, Will Mathis and Kathy Mathis

Magoon calls the meeting to order at 6:48

Walsh moves to approve minutes from 7-24-2023 meeting. Magoon seconds, motion carries.

### Public Comment

Bob West states that the MERP application for the energy audit has been submitted but requires a little more information, it will then be finalized. West proposes using part of the \$4000 mini grant towards a Button Up Goshen event. This would benefit homeowners by providing information on incentives available for weatherization upgrades for homes. West states Goshen could possibly partner with Brandon on this event. Chernaya feels this information is already available on the Efficiency Vermont website. Sabatini agrees that partnering with Brandon on this event would make the most sense. West and Sabatini will attend Brandon's informational meeting and report back to the Selectboard.

Bill Mathis inquires about the garbage piling up at a residence on Town Hill Rd. Sabatini states the homeowner is cleaning out the house. Sabatini has already taken away one load of metal and one load of garbage. The homeowner is now finished with the clean out and the pile will be removed this week.

Magoon states that the Town Hall was left in immaculate condition after the Brown family rented it. Whiting will issue the Brown's deposit refund.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Dog Bite Incident-** Magoon states that a resident was bitten by a dog in Town. This dog has been aggressive in the past. The dog is licensed and is current on its rabies shots. Both Constables were contacted by the resident. In addition the resident sent an email to the Selectboard and both constables with an account of the incident including a photo of the bite. Constable Dave McKinnon sent the Selectboard an email informing them of his conversation with the resident. Whiting states that 1 hour was charged by the Constable. The Selectboard questions the validity of paying this bill without a report from the Constable. Magoon states that



when the Selectboard was notified of the incident, it was the Selectboard who reached out to both the Town Clerk and the Health Inspector asking for their participation following up on the incident and confirming license and vaccination status of the dog. Magoon states that what is lacking is the immediacy of who is responsible in responding to this. Vaccine status needs to be verified immediately. State Statute is clear that if the dog is not vaccinated, the dog must be quarantined for 10 days. The Constables are the Animal Control Officers for the Town and this should have been under their jurisdiction.

Chernaya inquires what action is being taken by the owner to secure the dog. The dog owner has stated that he will ensure the dog is securely contained. Health Officer, Janice Gould, contacted all parties and filed a report. Further discussion on the roles of Constables and whether this is money well spent by the Town. The Town is paying \$100 per month for the Constable to drive around town and no report has ever been filed on this. This money could be reallocated to a Sheriff that has the authority to enforce the law.

Magoon moves to no longer allow Constable rounds. Walsh seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

**Blueberry Hill Inn Letter of Support-** Shari Brown is seeking a letter of support from the Selectboard for a community grant application to repair her roof. This is a \$25K economic impact grant for businesses that can demonstrate benefit to their local economy. The Inn is down a couple of rooms due to leaks in the roof thus less income for the business. Brown states that this money would enable her to hire more local staff as well as purchase more local goods and services. Bill Mathis will write the Letter of Support.

Magoon moves to approve Bill Mathis submitting a Letter of Support on behalf of the Selectboard. Walsh seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

## ROADS

**Grading-** Walsh states that grading on Flora White was done on Friday. There is no further grading scheduled due to the poor condition of the grader. It is leaking oil every time it is used. Walsh states she is meeting with a mechanic who is willing to come up to Goshen to repair the grader. Repairs will ensure all roads are able to be graded before winter.

**Ditching-** An excavator is scheduled to be rented from G Stone in September. The rental price will be \$2540 for the week. Walsh states the plan would be to accomplish all ditching while the excavator is rented. Completing the culvert install project on Hathaway Rd at the same time, would enable part of the excavator rental cost to be covered by grant money. Magoon inquires what insurance the Town will need for the excavator. Walsh will confirm insurance needs. Walsh states she feels that the hourly rate of pay for the road crew should increase while operating the excavator. Further discussion on current rates and costs.



Magoon moves to rent the excavator for a week from G Stone for \$2540 and for the timecards for the Grant in Aid project, Will and Jeremy will be paid \$35 an hour. Walsh seconds, motion carries.

Whiting states that the timesheets for this project must be separate from any other timesheets. Walsh confirms this will happen.

**Ditching Fill-** Walsh states that if any resident wants to have fill from the ditching project delivered to their house, a waiver must be filled out so the Town is not liable. Magoon will find a waiver for this and post it on the website to refer people to. The waiver will need to be signed by the property owner.

**Machinery Update-** The black truck has been fixed and updated with new tires and plating on the bed. The loader and grader still have to be fixed. Logos will be placed on all town equipment and the red plow in town.

The bulletin board has been replaced on the Town Garage. The large bulletin board and new light will be installed on the Town Office. The sign will be taken down and evaluated to see if it's able to be saved since it is rotten.

**Roadside and Bridge Clearing-** Will has started this and it needs handwork. This work will continue and be completed by December. Walsh states that more gravel needs to be added and compacted to the bridge on South Hill Rd as well. The water is sitting on the bridge and potholes are starting to form.

Magoon inquires of Whiting if timesheets for road work done on GMNF roads are being kept separated and Whiting confirms this. Magoon states that some of the repair work from flooding that was done to South Hill Rd can be billed to the Municipal Forest.

**Personnel-** Magoon proposes paying Walsh for her time on the road crew. Further discussion on this subject.

Magoon moves to add Tammy Walsh to the Road Crew at \$25 an hour. Mathis seconds, motion carries. Walsh abstained.

Walsh will be added to the Town's insurance policy. Magoon states that during storm cleanup George Hornbeck was temporarily added to the insurance policy because he was operating the loader as an emergency measure. Magoon inquires if Hornbeck should be kept on in case there is a need for more employees. Further discussion on this subject.

Magoon moves to add George Hornbeck to the payroll and insurance as an emergency employee as needed. Walsh seconds, all in favor, motion carries.



Magoon states that Hornbeck will not be driving CDL trucks and only operating non CDL machinery because he has not been CDL approved by the Town.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Backup Generator-** Magoon has reached out for quotes for putting in the backup generator. Walsh will dig the trenching to move the power. Magoon will be getting a quote as well for the generator. Her company has an employee/community program for projects like this. West inquires if the Town Hall is in a flood zone. Magoon confirms that it is not in a flood zone.

**Charter Revision-** Magoon is still working on getting information on this from VLCT. Mathis is concerned about getting this information in a timely manner. Mathis will do some research on the process with VLCT

**Fire Dept Proposal-** A proposal for a contract was received from Chief Kilpeck and Magoon has forwarded this to Ethan West and Rick Toman. Magoon would like to set up a working meeting on this to get some more insight and questions answered. Further discussion on this subject. Meeting set for Wednesday Sept 6th at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

Whiting requests the Selectboard write a letter to Allegiance regarding a credit owed to the Town. This company owes a \$500 refund that they want to have the town take as a credit but the town is no longer doing business with them and need a check issued instead.

Magoon moves to adjourn the meeting. Walsh seconds, meeting adjourned at 8:06.

Respectfully submitted,  
Timmi Moffi, Selectboard Clerk