

Cavendish Select Board Meeting, Monday, February 12th, 2024, at 6:30 pm

Location: Town Office Meeting Room: 37 High Street Cavendish, Vermont

Present: Bob Glidden (Chairman), Mike Ripley, George Timko, Shannon Devereux, Dave Norton, Rick Chambers (Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary), Patrick Cody (OVTV) and citizens as listed on the attached sheet.

- **Call the meeting to order**

Bob Glidden, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm

- **Approval of Minutes from January 4th, January 18th & January 25th, 2024**

Mike Ripley moved/George Timko seconded a motion to approve the minutes from January 4th, January 18th & January 25th, 2024. All voted in favor.

- **Adjust Agenda**

There were no adjustments.

- **Hear Citizens**

Margo Caulfield was present and said that Cavendish Connects has printed emergency information magnets using its own money, not Town funds. She said that she would like the Board to get 911 address signs for every address in Town.

- **New Business**

- 1. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan informational meeting (MARC will be present)**

Rick said that Cindy Ingersoll from Mount Ascutney Regional Commission was present and would review the draft LHMP.

Cindy said that having this Plan in place will help to avoid hazards in the future, will allow the Town to maximize relief funds after a natural disaster and is needed to make the Town eligible for funding options. She said that the plan follows the standards and requirements set by FEMA. Cindy added that one new feature in this draft is to include an annual review to measure progress on the plan.

Cindy said that she has received some comments on the draft from community members and will be revising the plan. She said that one aspect of this plan is to do a hydraulic study on floodwaters which enter Proctorsville in the Route 103 and Route 131 intersection area, and funding for that study is dependent on having the plan adopted.

Dave asked if the plan can be updated anytime. Cindy said that proposed changes can be gathered at the yearly review and the plan can be updated. George asked if there was an adoption process specified. Cindy said that the adoption process could be set by the town.

George asked if a natural disaster happened which wasn't specified in this plan, would it still be covered. Cindy said that it would be. George asked if the maps weren't accurate, could they be updated after adoption. Cindy said that they could.

- 2. Possible Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption**

Cindy said that the proposed edits would not change the substance of the document, so it could be adopted with those revisions in mind. Margo added that the Town Plan and Planning Commission need to work on providing

more housing before people can be moved out of flood zones. Cindy agreed that planning needs to be incorporated into other areas.

Dave Norton moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to adopt the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented with the changes discussed and needed in the future. All voted in favor.

George asked if the Board could get a list of the changes made. Cindy said that she will email the updated draft. Rick said that he will send the comments and updated drafts to the Board. Rick said that he thought it was good to get this plan adopted and to get the hydraulic study done.

3. Request for inactive status Water/Sewer

Rick said that he received a request from the owner of the former Smokin' Bowls restaurant building for inactive status on their water and sewer allocations. He said that the restaurant has not reopened since the July flooding. He said that there are two quarters of inactivity, and if the Board approves the request tonight it would go inactive after the third quarter of inactivity at the end of February. He added that the Board could approve the inactive sewer rate, and he would ask the water commissioners to approve the inactive water rate.

Rick said that this building is in the flood hazard area and may need to be raised if they try to open another business there. George commented that the by-laws state there should be three quarters of inactivity before inactive status can be requested. Mike said that he thought these were special circumstances and they should help the business owner by granting inactive status.

Dave Norton moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to allow inactive status for sewer for the former Smokin' Bowls building. Dave Norton, Shannon Devereux, Mike Ripley and Bob Glidden voted yes. George Timko voted no. The motion passed.

4. Review and possible action Yearly Certificate of Mileage

Rick said that he has filled out the Certificate of Highway Mileage, including the minutes from the December 11th Board meeting which adjusted the mileage for Carleton Road as per the survey presented by Gary Rapanotti.

The Board reviewed and signed the certificate.

- **Managers Report**

Rick said that he wanted to thank the Highway department for their endless battle with muddy roads this winter. He said that he also wanted to thank the townspeople for their patience during these unusual freeze/thaw periods. He added that as the temperatures seem to be cooling again the Highway crew would try to get more work done on the back roads.

Rick said that FEMA has collected a lot of information on the July flood damages and they are now putting the projects together for reimbursement. He said that it is time consuming. He added that he is still looking for flood pictures and videos which can be texted to 802-738-6445 or emailed to the Town Manager (email available on website). George asked if the December flooding event will roll into the July event. Rick said that he wasn't sure.

Rick said that the Annual Town Report has been sent to the printers. He thanked Josh the auditor and the office staff for working on it along with all their other Town Office duties.

- **Other Business**

Dave Norton – none.

Shannon Devereux – none.

George Timko– George said that he wondered if the Planning Commission had held the hearing on the energy chapter for the Town Plan. Shannon said that they did. He asked when the Select Board would schedule their hearing. Rick said that he would look at the timing and schedule that hearing.

George said he noticed that the Academy Building survey showed part of the building is within the town road right of way. Jen said that when the surveyor was researching the property, he couldn't find documentation of the road width when it was originally laid out, so he used the standard width which is probably wider.

George said that he wanted to talk about Town Meeting. He said that this year the Board agreed to have all articles voted on by Australian ballot and to put on the ballot for the voters to decide whether future meetings will be voted in person or by Australian ballot for good. He asked when the ballots will be ready. Jen said that the absentee ballots will be available on Wednesday February 14th for mail or pickup at the Town Office. She added that voters should call the Town Office with any questions or to request absentee ballots.

- **Executive Session- Legal Matter**

Mike Ripley moved/Dave Norton seconded a motion to enter executive session at 7:18 pm. All voted in favor.

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to exit executive session at 7:38 pm. All voted in favor.

- **Adjourn**

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:39 pm. All voted in favor.

Minutes Approved: _____

Date: _____