

Select Board Meeting, Monday, May 10th at 6:30pm
(Meeting Held Via Zoom Meeting)
Meeting login info can be found on the Town Website
www.cavendishvt.com

Present: Bob Glidden (Chairman), Mike Ripley, Sandra Russo, Stephen Plunkard, George Timko, Brendan McNamara (Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary), Sharon Huntley, Shawn Cunningham, KJ and Abe Gross.

1. **Call the meeting to order**

Bob Glidden, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2. **Act upon the minutes of April 12th, 2021**

Sandra Russo moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to approve the minutes of April 12th, 2021, as written. All voted in favor.

3. **Hear Citizens**

Mike asked when the Board should discuss the School Board appointment. Brendan said that he hadn't gotten any requests from the School Board to appoint anyone. Mike said that he believed the School Board needed to receive a recommendation from the Select Board and then the School Board would make the appointment. He said that there were two letters of interest received by the School Board. Brendan suggested having a discussion under Other Business.

Brendan said that he had two adjustments to make to tonight's agenda – he said that items #5 and #14 could be eliminated and item #4 should read "Town Highway Annual Financial Plan."

4. **Review and consider action regarding the 'Town Highway Annual Financial Plan'**

Brendan said that he had emailed this out to the Board earlier to review. He said that Megan Brunk from VTrans had reviewed it and it is used to determine the State Highway aid for the Town.

George Timko moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to approve the Town Highway Annual Financial Plan as submitted. All voted in favor.

5. ~~Select Board to review updated 'Local Emergency Plan'~~

6. **Discussion regarding the replacement of a section of sewer line on Rt. 131**

Brendan said that the Board has discussed replacing the sewer line which runs along Route 131 from Singleton's to just past Depot Street several times. He said that this line needs to be flushed annually or it backs up into area homes and businesses because it sags and becomes plugged. Brendan said that it should be done while the Route 131 construction is taking place this year. He said that he and Chief Operator Randy Shimp put together bid packages and one contractor put in a bid in the amount of

\$232,325. He added that some aspects of the bid might be adjusted and he hoped to use some federal funds and capital improvement funds to pay for this project. Brendan said that the project would take approximately 45 days and would be coordinated with the Vtrans project on Route 131, so the work should start in mid-July. Brendan said that he would email the bid to the Board for review once it was finalized.

7. **Update on the Route 131 Paving Project.**

Brendan said that there have been issues with the condition of the roadway, largely due to rainy weather which created potholes and washboards that were too muddy to grade. He said that he has been in contact with both Pike Construction and Vtrans to address these concerns. He said that the entire paved surface will be reclaimed down to dirt and gravel will be added to correct the grade before repaving begins which will likely be in early August. Brendan added that work in Proctorsville will begin once school is out. He said that the project should be finished by early October.

George asked where the ground asphalt was going. Brendan said that much of it is being dumped in the Town's lower pit where it can be crushed into gravel. Stephen asked if road signage has been discussed. Brendan said that he would handle the digital speed sign and he hasn't yet discussed other signs with Vtrans.

Brendan added that all the guardrails will be removed and reset after paving is completed.

Stephen asked if the green plastic netting had been discussed. Brendan said not recently but it is on his list.

8. **Update on the American Rescue Plan Act.**

Brendan said that he spoke with our State Representative Jon Arrison who wasn't sure of the release schedule for these funds. He said that Jon thought the State was still working on the project spending guidelines. Brendan said that he was thinking about water/wastewater and broadband projects that could be done and hoped the guidelines would be expanded so funding could be used for projects which would benefit all Town residents.

9. **Tax Sale Update.**

Brendan said that a tent was set up next to the Town Office so that the tax sale could be held outdoors to comply with Covid-19 guidelines in spite of the rainy weather. He said that seven properties were initially scheduled for tax sale but the delinquent taxes were paid on three properties and another was removed because it is under contract for sale which will pay off the taxes. Brendan said that two of the remaining properties were purchased at the tax sale. He said that the final property was not bid on since the location of the parcel is unknown. He said that the next step on this property may be to remove it from the grand list and he would consult with town counsel regarding that. Brendan said that the total delinquent taxes collected was about \$50,000. He suggested having tax sales more regularly to keep tax monies coming in. Brendan added that the original owners have a year to redeem the properties sold at tax sale before the winning bidders can receive a Tax Collector's deed.

10. **Transfer Station design discussion.**

Brendan said that he has talked with the Transfer Station staff about how to better control traffic flow. He said that on busy days it is difficult to check for permit stickers and collect fees with the current layout. Brendan added that he suspects much of the demo debris does not come from this town and it is hard to control given the current layout. He suggested changing the traffic flow so the attendants can greet cars as they enter to collect fees appropriately. Brendan added that the Transfer Station staff are now selling permit stickers there which is helping to make sure users live in town.

11. **Action regarding the Health Order Violation for 228 Cavendish Gulf Road.**

Brendan said there has been an ongoing situation at this property and he recently received a letter from a neighbor which he had emailed to the Board. He said that the driveway has eroded making it impossible to drive to the house and runoff there may start to affect the roadway. He said that the trash has not been cleaned up and is attracting rodents.

Brendan said that he has been discussing the situation with an agent for the mortgage holder who says they are investigating remediation bids. Brendan said that he has no faith in this company since the situation has been ongoing since December. He suggested that the Town take steps to fix the driveway, remove the trash and rodents, and place a lien on the property to recoup the costs. Brendan said that the lien would hopefully be repaid when the property sells. He said that he felt it was unfair to the neighbors to let this situation continue.

Stephen asked for more details about placing the lien. Brendan said that he thought \$10,000 was the upper limit on placing a lien and said that he would like the Town to do the work to ensure it is done correctly. He said that he would investigate the lien terms and the costs to clean up the property and fix the driveway. The Board agreed.

12. **Town Manager to discuss various Town Projects.**

Brendan said that the new highway employee Derek Bruce is on board and that Bill Bigwood has retired. He said that the paving on Greven and Wheeler roads is complete. He said the parking spaces at the EV charging station will be painted soon and added that the station is tied into a network which alerts electric vehicles to its location. Brendan said that the new loader has been delivered and it does fit under the railroad underpass on Mill Street.

13. **Other business**

Brendan said that at the short meeting last week the Select Board approved the appointment of Abe Gross to the Green Mountain Unified School Board for the remainder of a 3-year term ending in March 2022. He said that he had received a letter of interest in the other open position (3-year position ending in March 2023) from Julia Gignoux. Mike said that the GMUSD had also received a letter of interest in this position from Mark Huntley.

George Timko moved to recommend Julia Gignoux to fill the open GMUSD board position until the next election. The Board discussed the process of appointing persons to a unified school board, which is a little unclear. They discussed whether they should recommend both interested persons and let the School Board choose. Abe Gross was present and said he thought that would be awkward. Abe suggested that he may not be able to serve his entire term until the next election so if the Board recommended one person now then the other might be willing to be appointed later if he needed to resign.

George said that a motion was made and would anyone second it. **Bob Glidden seconded. All voted in favor.** Julia Gignoux is recommended to fill the GMUSD Director position until the next election, and the GMUSD Board can act to appoint her at their next meeting.

Mike Ripley - none

Sandra Russo - none

George Timko - none

Stephen Plunkard - none

Bob Glidden - none

Brendan McNamara – none.

14. ~~Executive Session (Personnel Matter)~~

15. **Adjourn**

George Timko moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. All voted in favor.

Minutes Approved: _____

Date: _____