**SELECTBOARD MEETING APPROVED**

July 5, 2023

Attending remotely; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Paul Lamberson, Todd Odit, Joy Dubin Grossman, Nick Baker, Margaret McNurlan, Sue Tappan. Dennis Place was absent.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. via zoom

Agenda Additions or Deletions

The DRB Alternate Interview is removed.

Public Comment

none

Approve Minutes of 6/7

Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 6/7 as amended. Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

Selectboard Forum

none

Consider Approval of Request to use Highway Right-of-Way

Merrily reported that further investigation allows these lines to be overhead.

Paul moved to approve the request from Waitsfield Valley Telecom for two wire crossings on Magee Hill R. Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

Approve List of Unlicensed Dogs

Merrily said the issue is if the Selectboard will authorize the Town Clerk to keep a list of unlicensed dogs.

Merrily will draft a letter to be sent to owners of unlicensed dogs that they need to comply with licensing. Todd noted Jericho has free licensing as an incentive. The importance is to know these animals are vaccinated. Paul suggested to allow 30 days from receipt of letter to comply to avoid late fees.

Todd will check what the lost revenue would be for free licensing. Also noted was to look at having a rabies clinic to reduce the cost of vaccinations.

Consider Fire Department Request for Staff Car Trial – Chief Baker

Nick reviewed his proposal of the Fire Department taking over the Police Department used cruiser rather than selling it. This would be used as a staff car/command car.

Paul said he agrees with the proposal and thanked Nick for the information and added he feels this is a management decision.

Merrily said the Town just approved significant ARPA funds to the Fire Department for radios. She would like to proceed cautiously and wait a while.

Todd said this is not a Selectboard decision now. He wanted to get feedback as it could become a Board decision in terms of budget by adding a vehicle to the fleet as a used patrol car will not always be available and this would likely turn into a more serious investment.

Maggie said there does seem to be a need but has concern about this being an on-going budget item and asked if the vehicles are stagged so there will always be a cruiser with a few extra years that can be used by the Fire Department. Todd said there will always be a cruiser they are getting rid of but the FD may not be interested in a sedan. Nick said it would be better to be an SUV or pick up but he will make whatever is available work, at least part time.

Mike said he likes the idea of a commitment to utilize assets we own.

Todd said he will go ahead with the trial and we will see how it works.

Discussion of Updated Conceptual Cost Estimates for Town Hall Roof Stabilization

Joy noted the Board received a memo, a design, and some updated figures on this.

The cost to shore up the walls and roof is about $300,000. Merrily asked if the work done to have the big room available for use, is work that will be undone if we are able in the future to update the Town Hall. Joy said she suspects this would not stay in place; this is a temporary fix. Merrily asked if we are throwing money away doing this? Joy said we are allowing the room to be used until we are able to make a greater investment in the Town Hall.

Paul said he understands the concern of spending money for something that might be undone for a future project. He feels a real responsibility to the keep the Town Hall going, it is a valuable asset and would like to get it back to public use.

Mike asked what the estimated time extension we would get from doing this is and what is the proposal for where this money will come from.

Joy said she can follow up to get a sense of how long this could last. She said based on the conversation this could be an ARPA funds conversation. Todd said he doubts we would get a definitive answer on how long this would last; the big issue is the age of the slate roof. Todd also noted in past ARPA fund discussions there was money to go toward the roof.

Nick agreed with the statement Paul made about maintaining what we have.

Mike noted if the roof fails, we do not just loose the upper hall but will not be able to work in the building.

Merrily asked if it is possible to remove the slate. Joy said that might be throwing away money as it would be paying too much for something that will be changed.

Todd said he will put some documents together to get an RFP and come back to the Board.

Town Manager Report

* It looks like we have a new Road Foreperson
* Grand list has been finalized and based on that number the estimated tax rate will be $21.50 per hundred thousand just slightly higher than the projected $21.30.
* For the July 19 meeting neither he nor Joy will be available as they are both on vacation. He recommends that meeting be in person only.
* The fireworks company had a truck get stuck in the field before they brought the heavy truck out so decided they could not do the show. The Town pays a 10% fee for cancellation but that could not be avoided.

Sue Tappan asked about the decision on the poles on Magee Hill Rd and was told the Board approved the request from Waitsfield Valley Telecom.

Approve Warrants and Payroll

Merrily moved to approve the warrants signed by Mike and Maggie, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

Adjourn

Mike moved to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Seconded by Merrily and approved with 4 yes votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Spadaccini, Clerk of the Board