

GUILFORD SELECTBOARD - MEETING
Monday, 14 December 2020, 6:30 pm, 236 School Road, Guilford, VT

DRAFT MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Wizansky, Verandah Porche, Michael Becker, Zon Eastes, Rusty Marine

OFFICIALS/ STAFF PRESENT: Peder Rude (Town Administrator)

- I. Call to Order
- II. Recognition of Public: Austin Rice (BCTV), Wanda Atomanuk (resident), Sara Coffey (resident), Sheila Morse (resident), Marli Rabinowitz (resident), Lesley Malouin (resident), Linda Lembke (resident)
- III. Rules of Procedure
- IV. Additions
- V. Changes to Agenda Order
- VI. Approval of Minutes (5 minutes)
 - a. Regular Meeting - 23 November 2020
 - i. **ACTION** Zon moved to approve the minutes as written. Rusty seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.
- VII. Highway
 - a. General Update
 - i. Peder spoke with Dan last week. The road crew has been grading roads, cleaning culverts, some minor repairs, and cutting trees and brush.
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Town Meeting Day 2021
 - i. Richard framed the discussion for Selectboard members and residents. He outlined the potential options before the Selectboard. Sara shared the work that the Vermont Legislature has been doing and what their goals are when they return to session. There was an extended discussion about legislation that has been passed and what needs to be done. Richard inquired about the opinion and input of each individual Selectboard member. There was a further discussion on the best course of action with input from many residents.
 - ii. **ACTION** Rusty moved to adopt the Australian Ballot for Town Meeting Day 2021. Michael seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.
 - b. Discussion of Selectboard role in amplifying state COVID guidelines
 - i. Richard shared the background of this topic with those present. A resident expressed concern to a Selectboard member about those living in congregate housing not following state guidelines. In particular, there was a concern about

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individuals not wearing masks when in common spaces. Richard shared a few ideas:

1. Send out a postcard to all residents
2. Post additional information on the website
3. Send a letter to owners of apartment complexes

There was a brief discussion amongst Selectboard members.

- ii. **ACTION** The Selectboard informally agreed to pursue all three of the previously listed ideas for communication.

c. Snow Plowing Playscape & BBCC

- i. Peder reminded members that when representatives from BBCC were at the previous meeting, they requested that the Town continue plowing the Community Center as was done last year. Additionally, the Recreation Commissioners inquired if the road crew can plow the new Playscape parking area to enable families to continue using the space during the winter.
- ii. **ACTION** The Selectboard informally agreed that the road crew should continue plowing the Community Center and begin plowing the Playscape in the event of snow.

d. Conservation Commission

- i. Linda shared a report and an update on the Emerald Ash Borer inventory that was completed over the past year. The Conservation Commission set out a series of goals as outcomes of this work. Linda shared some details of their extensive work. There was a brief discussion that followed.

e. Deerfield River Watershed Association - Chris Curtis

- i. Chris Curtis introduced himself and the DRWA. They are seeking a National Wild and Scenic River designation for the Deerfield River and its tributaries. One thing this action would do is prevent any future dam building. It would also open up additional federal grant funding for communities within its watershed. Chris is seeking letters of support from Selectboards to begin the research phase of the project. Thirteen other towns have written letters of support. Chris also noted that there would be no cost to the Town. He shared further information on the process for the Study Phase to proceed.
- ii. **ACTION** Verandah moved that the Selectboard write a letter of support to the DRWA. Michael seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.

f. Commission Reserve Fund Transfers

- i. Peder shared that at the end of the fiscal year, the Selectboard needs to transfer any unspent funds from each Commission to their respective reserve funds. He read the balance for the Planning, Conservation, and Cemetery Commissions.
- ii. **ACTION** Richard moved to transfer these funds into the reserve funds of each respective fund as read. Michael seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.

IX. Old Business

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a. GVFD Capital Budget

- i. No one was present from GVFD at this meeting. At their annual meeting the week prior, the GVFD Trustees shared with the Selectboard that they felt the \$35,000 for the "Building Sinking Fund" should remain in their budget and not in the Selectboard capital budget. GVFD also requested that the \$35,000 approved at Town Meeting 2020 be transferred to their Reserve Fund. Richard reminded Selectboard members that at a previous meeting where GVFD was present, it was agreed that the \$35,000 approved at Town Meeting 2020 remain in the Town Capital Fund until it was needed and that moving forward those funds would be included in the Selectboard Capital Budget. There was an extended discussion.
- ii. **ACTION** Rusty moved to retain the GVFD capital funds in the Town's Capital Reserve Fund and Capital Budget. Zon seconded. Rusty, Michael, Zon, and Richard were in favor. Verandah abstained. Motion carried.

X. Discussion/Updates

a. FY22 Town Commission Budgets

- i. Richard noted this question arose from an FY22 budget planning meeting and whether or not the Commissions could be funded from their Reserve Funds either in part or in total for FY22. There was a brief discussion.
- ii. **ACTION** Richard moved to fund each commission 50% from their reserve fund and 50% through appropriations in the FY22 budget. Rusty seconded. No one was opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.

b. FY22 Law Enforcement Services

- i. Peder shared that this topic has arisen on and off over many years. On the one hand, whilst the total annual hours of the contract are few, the presence of the Vermont State Police "encourages" residents and visitors to abide by traffic laws. On the other hand, it is a fairly large single line item in the Selectboard budget and some argue there is minimal benefit to the Town on the whole. Michael also shared that another potential concern without police presence is increased drunk driving. There was a brief discussion. For clarity, it was noted that should the Selectboard take this action, Guilford is still covered by the Vermont State Police for civil and criminal matters. This is traffic enforcement only.
- ii. **ACTION** Verandah moved to discontinue the law enforcement services contract with the Vermont State Police for FY22 and reevaluate at a later date. Rusty seconded. Rusty, Verandah, Zon, and Michael were in favor. Richard was opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.

c. FY22 Salary Increases

- i. Richard presented the situation to the Selectboard and explained the situation. There was a discussion between Selectboard members. There was some input from those present.
- ii. **ACTION** Zon moved that the salary increase for FY22 remain at 3%. Verandah seconded. Michael, Zon, Richard, and Verandah approved. Rusty abstained. Motion carried.

- d. **ACTION** Richard moved to table the items of DV Fiber and COVID updates. Verandah seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.

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e. DVFiber Update - **TABLED**

f. COVID Update - **TABLED**

XI. Finance

a. Warrants (5 minutes)

Payroll – WE 11/29/20	\$6206.05
Payroll - WE 12/06/20	\$6181.59
Payroll – WE 12/13/20	\$6179.44
Expense Warrant #2011	\$14,470.67
TOTAL	\$33,037.75

ACTION Verandah moved to pay finance warrants as read. Zon seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. None abstained. Motion carried.

XII. Communications

XIII. Action Summary from Previous Meeting

- a. Approved annual funds transfer.
- b. Approved amendments to the Dog Ordinance.
- c. Rescinded decision to hold dog hearing.
- d. Send letters on dog incident to complainants and dog owners.
- e. Add discussion of GVFD Capital Funds to Selectboard Budget Meeting
- f. Richard and Peder to draft letters and share with other Selectboard members.
- g. Find an attorney to review letters.

XIV. Actions Taken

- a. Moved to adopt Australian Ballot for Town Meeting Day 2021.
- b. Informally agreed to 3 means of town-wide communication relating to state COVID recommendations and requirements.
- c. Informally agreed the road crew should continue plowing the Community Center and begin plowing the Playscape parking area.
- d. Moved to send a letter of support for the DRWA to pursue the National Wild & Scenic River designation.
- e. Moved to transfer commission reserve balances to respective reserve funds.
- f. Moved to retain the GVFD capital funds in the Selectboard Capital Fund and budget.
- g. Moved to fund each Town Commission 50% from their reserve funds and 50% through appropriation for FY22.
- h. Moved to discontinue law enforcement services with the Vermont State Police for FY22.
- i. Moved to retain 3% salary increases for employees for FY22.
- j. Tabled two updates until the next meeting.

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XV. Adjournment

ACTION Zon moved to adjourn. Michael seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. None abstained. Motion carried.

Next Selectboard Meeting: XX.XX.20 at 6:30 pm

Richard Wizansky _____

Verandah Porche _____

Rusty Marine _____

Michael Becker _____

Zon Eastes _____