

Cavendish Select Board Meeting, Monday, May 13th, 2024, at 6:30 pm
Town Office Meeting Room: 37 High Street Cavendish, Vermont & via Zoom

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 6:30 pm

- **Approval of Minutes from April 15th 2024**

Dave Norton moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to approve the minutes from April 15, 2024, as written. All voted in favor.

- **Adjust Agenda**

There were no adjustments.

- **Hear Citizens**

Stuart Lindberg was present. He said that he fully supported Ludlow Ambulance, but he has an issue with three members of the Select Board being Ludlow Ambulance employees. Stuart said that he believes they would be violating the Town's conflict of interest policy if they vote on the ambulance contract and they should recuse themselves. George asked how the Board would operate if they recused themselves. Stuart said that he did not know.

Bobby Glidden was present and asked how many Board members were employees of Ludlow Ambulance. Mike said that he and Dave are regular employees and Bob fills in when needed. Mike said that he did not believe they had a conflict of interest. Stuart said that he did not agree and he would file a complaint if they did not recuse themselves.

Stacy Bishop was present said that she believed the Board members would put their personal interests aside and vote in favor of what is best for the community.

- **New Business**

1. **Ambulance Contract**

Rick said that a concerned citizen spoke about the ambulance service at Town Meeting. He said that she wasn't able to be here tonight but had submitted a letter of her findings and questions. Rick read the letter from Wendy Regier aloud to the Board. Rick read a letter from Douglas Nelson, district 11 medical advisor, aloud to the Board.

Shannon asked what would happen if three of the Board members did not vote on this contract. Rick said that he believed three could abstain from voting, there would still be a quorum and the other two members could vote. He said that if three members had recused themselves, then there wouldn't be a quorum and no vote could be held, but they did not recuse themselves from the discussion.

Bob asked if Stephanie Grover, Ludlow Ambulance Chief, had any comments. Stephanie said that when they choose a destination which is farther away they don't serve the community well. She said that, with technology today, medical records can be transferred, and once a patient is stable they can be transferred to another facility if that is a better place for them to be.

Rick asked if Ludlow Ambulance only transports to Springfield Hospital. Stephanie said that they will go to

other hospitals if they are closer to the accident site, and they will go farther if required for a specific case.

George said that he believed the Select Board needed to vote on the contract themselves rather than leaving it to the Town Manager's decision. Rick said that he believed the Board could vote to let him decide.

Mike said that he would abstain. Bob said that he would abstain. Dave said that he would abstain.

Rick said that he believed the Board still has a quorum and the other two members could vote. George said that they didn't have a majority of the board voting so he believed they couldn't approve the contract. Rick said that he believed they still could vote to approve or not approve the contract.

Mike said that he believed he and Dave did not have a conflict of interest as they would be paid the same regardless, but he would abstain to avoid the appearance of a conflict. He added that he first volunteered for the Cavendish Ambulance Service, and then volunteered for Ludlow Ambulance so he could respond directly from home before he was paid by Ludlow Ambulance and he did it to serve his community.

Mike McNamara was present and asked if Cavendish Fire Dept provides transportation. Stacy said that they do not. She added that there are two paramedics on the Department but they cannot work at that level because of the Cavendish Fire Dept licensing.

Bob said that he rescinded his abstention and he would vote. Shannon asked if Bob had not rescinded, and they hadn't voted, would the Town have been left without ambulance coverage. George said that their contract is good until July 1. Stephanie added that they would not leave the Town without ambulance coverage regardless of whether the contract was signed.

Diane McNamara was present and asked if Bob gets paid by the Ludlow Ambulance. Mike said that Bob was not regularly scheduled like he and Dave are but he fills in if they need someone and he does get paid.

Dave said that he, like Mike, is trying to do the best thing for the town.

George Timko moved/ Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to approve the Ludlow Ambulance contract. Bob Glidden, Shannon Devereux and George Timko voted yes. Mike Ripley and Dave Norton abstained. The motion passed.

2. Birds & Blooms Use of Village Green

Rick said that Doris Eddy, on behalf of the Streetscapes Committee, had contacted him for permission to use the Proctorsville Green on Saturday, June 22, for the annual Birds & Blooms Festival.

Shannon Devereux moved/Dave Norton seconded a motion to approve use of the Village Green for the Birds & Blooms Festival on Saturday, June 22, 2024. All voted in favor.

3. Streetscapes ARPA Change Request

Rick said that the Streetscapes Committee had originally submitted an application for benches to place on the Green but they now want to order some picnic tables in place of some of the benches (same dollar amount). He said that he felt there is big difference between benches and picnic tables and there are no trash cans on the Green.

Mike McNamara suggested putting up signs to bring your trash out, and not place trash cans since we don't have a grounds crew.

George said that he thought Streetscapes should keep to their original proposal. Mike asked if the picnic tables would be movable for mowing. Rick said that they needed to be anchored for theft prevention.

The Board agreed the Streetscapes Committee should keep to their original proposal for benches only. Rick asked if he should look into getting some "pack out your trash" signs. The Board agreed he could look into signs if trash becomes a problem.

4. Liquor License Approvals

Rick said that there were four applications for liquor licenses needing review for approval:

First-class liquor license for Outer Limits Brewery.

George Timko moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to approve a first-class liquor license for Outer Limits Brewery. All voted in favor.

First-class liquor license for Oleo Corporation, dba Cavendish Point Hotel.

Bob Glidden moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to approve a first-class liquor license for Oleo Corporation dba Cavendish Point hotel. All voted in favor.

First-class for Oleo Corporation, dba Cavendish Point Castle Hotel.

Shannon Devereux moved/Dave Norton seconded a motion to approve a first-class liquor license for Oleo Corporation, dba Cavendish Point Castle Hotel. All voted in favor.

Third-class liquor license for Oleo Corporation, dba Cavendish Point Castle Hotel.

George Timko moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to approve a third-class liquor license for Oleo Corporation, dba Cavendish Point Castle Hotel. All voted in favor.

5. Possible Justice of the Peace Appointment

Rick said that Christopher Leonard submitted a letter of interest in being appointed a Justice of the Peace. He said that there are currently only four Justice's.

George Timko moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to appoint Christopher Leonard as a Justice of the Peace. All voted in favor.

6. Whitesville Road Paving Bids

Rick passed out copies of the bid summary. He said that three bids were received:

Bazin Brothers bid \$259,697, Fuller bid \$290,381 and Wilk bid \$415,414.50

He said these bids assume that the road would be closed M-F for two weeks. He said that, if the road was not closed, Bazin would charge \$20,000 more, Fuller \$10,000 more and Wilk \$12,000 more. George asked where the road would be closed. Rick said that it would be closed in-between the last two houses, people could still get to their homes but no through traffic would be allowed. He added that it would be open on weekends and maybe at night.

Rick said that the bids include doing an overlay on the worst part of Twentymile Stream Road, which would make the road more drivable until it could be paved correctly. He said removing that project would lower all the bids by about \$30,000.

Dave asked if there is enough in the paving fund to do the entire project on Whitesville and Twentymile Stream Roads. Rick said that there is enough to do both if the Board accepts the Bazin Bros bid.

Rick said that he would recommend accepting Bazin Brothers' bid. He said that they did not give a time frame for doing the work but would give us 2 weeks' notice before the road is closed. George asked if the town has detour signs. Rick said that he wasn't sure but he could get some. Mike asked if the town has enough to pay the extra \$20,000 to not close the road. Rick said that we could pay for it.

Dave Norton moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to award the bid to Bazin Brothers in the amount of \$259,697 including road closure. All voted in favor.

7. Set Time and Date for Park Place Meeting

Rick said that last fall the Board voted to move forward on making Park Place, the road behind Outer Limits Brewery, an official town road. He said that he needs to set dates for a site visit and public hearing which needs a 30 day warning.

The Board agreed to have the site visit at 5:00 and the public hearing at 6:00 on Monday, July 8th, followed by the regular monthly Select Board meeting at 6:30 pm. George asked if there was a survey of the area. Rick said that there was.

• Managers Report

Rick said that the town will be doing hydrant flushing during the week of May 20. He said that this is important maintenance but it does stir up the water, and suggested people flush the taps in their homes after hydrant flushing is complete.

Rick said that the highway crew has replaced some culverts in anticipation of summer paving on Whitesville Rd.

Rick said that the Memorial Day parade will be in Cavendish on May 30th beginning at approximately 10:30 am. He said that Route 131 will be briefly closed. He said that the parade will be starting at the old highway garage site, going down Route 131 to Mill Street bridge for the wreath ceremony and then proceeding along High Street to Cavendish Village cemetery. George asked when the Town Office would be closed. Rick said that it will be closed on Monday, May 27.

Rick said that some guard rails which were destroyed during the July flooding last summer haven't been replaced but the town will be working on those. He said that redoing the bank along Whitesville Road will be part of the paving project.

Rick said that he is still working on FEMA paperwork and it is moving forward.

• Other Business

Dave Norton-none.

Shannon Devereux-none.

George Timko- George said that the bridge on Whitesville Rd seems to be settling and there is quite a bump.

Mike Ripley-none.

Bob Glidden-none.

Stuart asked if placing the radar speed signs that Stephen Plunkard had asked about was still in the works. Rick said that he did get quotes. He said that the CTES principal may ask for a permanent 25 mph speed limit in front of the school since the timed flashing lights often don't work. Rick said that he would want to know if the speed limit was 35 or 25 and he would want to get a light for Depot Street as well as two on Main Street. Diane asked if this expense was in the FY25 budget. Rick said that it wasn't.

- **Executive Session- Personnel Matter**

Dave Norton moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:25 pm. They invited Diane McNamara to join them. All voted in favor.

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to exit executive session at 7:52 pm. All voted in favor.

- **Adjourn**

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm. All voted in favor.

Minutes Approved: _____

Date: _____