

Cavendish Select Board Meeting, Monday, June 10th, 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, Rick Chambers (Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary), Sarah Devereux (OVTV) and citizens as listed on the attached sheet.

Absent: Dave Norton

- **Call the meeting to order**

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

- **Approval of Minutes from May 13th, 2024**

Mike Ripley moved/George Timko seconded a motion to approve the minutes from May 13th, 2024, as written. All voted in favor.

- **Adjust Agenda**

There were no adjustments.

- **Hear Citizens**

Margo Caulfield was present. She said that the Black River Recovery Group now has a construction case manager who will work with families to complete the flood recovery work that needs to be done. She said that they also have a committee looking into both immediate and long-term housing resources, a committee to help people complete FEMA applications and another putting together grab and go emergency kits. Mike said that the Ludlow ambulance might have some supplies for their emergency kits. Margo said that there are funds available for flood hazard mitigation for municipalities and suggested the fire departments could apply for funding.

Margo said that she has been working on a don't fill in ditches campaign and working with a group of Dartmouth students to inventory ditches and culverts in town. She said that Rick has their report. Rick commented that many culverts are in rough shape in town so it was a big help to identify which need attention.

Doris Eddy was present as Town Health Officer. She said that the reddish brown house across from Singleton's was on Facebook over the weekend as there is a lot of garbage outdoors there. Doris said that she needs Select Board approval to write a health order violation. The Board agreed that Doris should write the violation.

- **New Business**

1. **Vermont Endurance 100**

Rick said that he received a letter informing the town of the details for this race which takes place on July 20-21, 2024. He said that the course runs through a small area of Cavendish along the border with Reading. He said that it's an endurance run that supports the VT Adaptive Ski Program. Margo added that they volunteered and provided food during last summer's floods.

2. **Liquor License Approvals**

Rick said that he wasn't able to print out the licenses due to internet issues in the office today but he read the list of liquor license applications received:

Singleton's 2nd class license

Outer Limits malt manufacturing license

Singleton's tobacco license

Oleo Corporation two outside consumption permits

Murdock's outside consumption permit

Murdock's first class license

Murdock's third class license

George Timko moved/ Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to approve all the liquor licenses listed. All voted in favor.

3. New Payroll Tax

Rick said that there is a new VT child care payroll tax starting on July 1, 2024. He said that the tax is .44% of wages and employers may cover the entire amount or split it with employees (.33% paid by employer and .11% paid by employees). Rick said that the total amount due would be around \$2400 per year.

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion that the town covers the entire .44% VT child care payroll tax. All voted in favor.

4. New Truck Discussion

Rick said that last fall the Board talked about looking for a new highway truck and at that time it would take about 18 months to fill an order. He said that Reed's has a truck available now and he and Phon looked at it last week. He said that the total purchase price is \$287,225 which includes the plow and wings, and it would be available in August. Rick added that Reed's would give \$10,000 credit for trading in our 2011 truck.

Mike asked if the town had enough in the capital equipment fund to buy this truck. Rick said that there is not enough to cover the purchase price, but there is enough to cover a few lease payments and we could continue to add to the equipment fund. He said that he hasn't gotten any lease terms yet and he would also look into a low interest loan from the state. Mike asked if the town could sell the old truck ourselves for more money. Rick said that we probably could but it might take awhile. George asked if it had a stainless-steel body. Rick said that it did.

Shannon Devereux moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to let Rick move ahead and discuss lease and/or purchase details. All voted in favor.

5. Dangerous/Derelict Buildings

Rick said that there is a building on Depot Street which he and Doris looked at last fall. He said that over the winter it has worsened and could collapse. Rick said that the dangerous and derelict building ordinance names a "safety building inspector" but he didn't know if the town had ever appointed one. He said that he would look for approval from the Board to go ahead and start the process for a safety inspection.

Stanley Hoskiewicz was present and said that the trailer is not occupied, and the house and barn are not habitable. He said that he is worried about flying metal from the roof, loose slates and chimney bricks, mold in the house, and peeling paint which probably contains lead. He said that the foundation of the barn has caved in and the barn collapsed during a snowstorm last winter.

Doris said that she knows Brendan contacted them before he left but got no response.

Rick said that an inspection needs to be done, and he thought that he, the fire department and Doris could do it. He said that the owners will be notified of the inspection beforehand, and they can appeal the report if they choose. Stan said that he thought Jeff Stearns had given the owner a price for tearing it down.

Rick said that the property is in the flood and river corridor, so if the buildings are torn down then the owners might not be allowed to put any new buildings up. He added that perhaps the existing building could be repaired and elevated to meet the town's flood hazard regulations.

Bob Glidden moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to give Rick the go ahead on removing the house. All voted in favor.

Stan thanked the Board.

6. Yearly Sheriff Contract

Rick said that the sheriff talked with the Board during budget season. He said that he has received their contract for \$27,000 for the same services they currently provide, which is 8 hours per week on 2 different days.

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to approve Rick and Bob signing the contract for sheriff

services for the upcoming year. All voted in favor.

- **Old Business**

- 1. **Digital Feedback Speed Signs**

Rick said that the Board has discussed these signs several times. He said that he got a new quote and would like to use some of the unallocated ARPA funds to buy them. He said that 15 by 13” signs are \$3500 apiece and 25 by 17” signs are \$4100 apiece. He said that he would get more quotes. Rick said that he was looking at purchasing 5 signs – one on either side of Cavendish village, one on either side of Proctorsville village, and one on Depot Street. He said that he didn’t think the total cost would exceed \$20,000.

George asked if the signs needed electric connections. Rick said that he got prices for solar panels so they wouldn’t need electric connections. George asked about maintenance. Rick said that they have a 3-year warranty.

Mike Ripley moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to approve the purchase of digital speed signs not spending more than \$20,000 of ARPA funds. All voted in favor.

George asked how much was left over in ARPA funds. Rick said that he could put that figure together for the next meeting. He said that he has been thinking about other uses for the ARPA funds, perhaps putting some funds into sidewalks. Rick said that all funds need to be allocated by the end of this year.

- **Managers Report**

Rick said he was happy to report that Willie has been cleared by his doctor and is back working at the transfer station.

Rick said that he is making progress with FEMA projects and has submitted the Densmore Road and Cavendish Gulf Roads projects for review along with debris removal and town emergency measures. He said that he has been trying to renew the town’s Sam.gov account which he needed to finish submitting projects and thinks he is getting closer to solving that issue.

- **Other Business**

Shannon Devereux – none.

Carl Snyder was present and asked if the town was going to fix guardrails on a number of roads which were trashed last summer. Rick said that he is working on those. Carl said that he thought some of the guardrails were damaged by trucks and maybe the town should put signs up limiting truck size on back roads.

George Timko – George said that he thought there was a new law requiring training for town managers and board chairs on the new open meeting law. He said that he thought VLCT had reported it. Rick said that he would look into it.

Mike Ripley – Mike said that every time the Board starts working on junk ordinance violations something happens, and he thought the Board should revisit that. Margo commented that there is no access to the Proctor cemetery currently due to junk in the path. Mike asked if the town crew could take note when they are out, or if the board should rely on citizen complaints to identify properties. Rick agreed that the Board should talk about this, and maybe the town should have an enforcement officer to investigate issues like this.

Bob Glidden – none.

- **Adjourn**

Mike Ripley moved/George Timko seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:19 pm. All voted in favor.

Minutes Approved: _____

Date: _____