

# SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - JANUARY 22, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps (by phone), Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Elizabeth Daut, Sheila Kearns. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

**TECH-WORK ESTIMATES:** Linda Schmidt says Mike Oltedal, the tech consultant hired to help Town Hall, visited on January 4 to determine what work is needed. Sandy Reidy received an estimate for the wiring required and is looking into the cost of a few pieces of hardware. These costs should be available to discuss in the next Selectboard meeting. Mike found malware on the listers' computer and removed it, which should make their work easier. Sandy will pursue moving NEMRC to the cloud when preparations for Town Meeting are done and her load is lighter.

**MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Linda says Janet Hurley of the BCRC explored an idea floated at the last Selectboard meeting, of equipping Town Hall as an emergency shelter (including remedying the lack of potable water), and she received preliminary approval on the idea as the Town's MTAP project. Joe Nolan, Karen Tendrup, and Sandy agree the water situation in particular must be remedied. Linda makes a motion to move forward with emergency-shelter preparation as the Town's MTAP project; Karen seconds; all in favor. Linda will let Janet know.

**ROAD REPORT:** Joe says little sanding or plowing have been needed recently.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Sheila Kearns says the Zoning Board held its public meeting on the **revised zoning bylaws** on January 17. The ZBA received good feedback, and Sheila is making updates accordingly. The Planning Commission will review the final draft and submit it to the Selectboard in February. Sheila says the Town's proposal for the **Municipal Energy Resilience Program** has been accepted. The next step will be an energy-efficiency review for Town Hall and the Town Garage. She is working with the BCRC on this. Sheila asks if the Zoning Board should pursue a violation letter regarding unregistered vehicles at the **Grogan property** on Chunks Brook Road. Karen says that violation can be pursued but that the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Agency of Agriculture found no violations at the property regarding garbage or runoff from cars or animals. Karen has asked Patrick Lowkes, the Environmental Enforcement Officer assigned to the Town's complaint, for written confirmation of this decision, but he has so far not provided it. The decision was given to her in a phone message, which she has. Sheila says a letter will be sent to the property owner, inviting him to discuss the vehicle issue with the Zoning Board.

Linda says the **survey that will gather public input for the rewriting of Sandgate's Hazard Mitigation Plan** is ready and available to all residents, neighbors, and organizations connected to Sandgate. The survey can be taken online, and paper copies are available in Town Hall. Details and a link to the survey are on the Town website, and Linda posted flyers on all the Town message boards. Deadline for the survey is March 5. Linda says she filed the required online update of the Town's progress on the grant for rewriting the HMP. She also says the Town will receive a reimbursement of about \$800 from the **Bennington County Solid Waste Administration**, related to the new hazardous-waste facility in Bennington. Sandy asks that this reimbursement be given to the Town as a check rather than a credit toward 2024 BCSWA charges.

Joe says **John Phelps's** work schedule has changed and will prevent him from attending the next few meetings in person, but he will call in. Joe asks the Board if this is acceptable, and the Board says it is. Joe also says installation of the automatic **generator in Town Hall** is almost finished.

Karen will be taking a **CPR/AED** course.

**WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING:** Joe makes a motion to add an article on rolling over any excess funds in the pavement-budget line item into the reserve pavement fund. Karen seconds; all in favor. The warning is signed by the Board.

**REVIEW OF JANUARY 2 MINUTES:** Karen makes a motion to approve the minutes with one correction, to the spelling of Diane O'Brien's name. Linda seconds; all in favor.

**ADJOURN:** Joe makes a motion to adjourn; Karen seconds; all in favor.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 AT 6:00 IN SANDGATE TOWN HALL.**

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Reidy and Linda Schmidt.

*A complete recording is available by request at Sandgate Town Hall.*