

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - FEBRUARY 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m.

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

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Sheila Kearns says she has reached her term limit on the **board of the Martha Canfield Library**, and the library is looking for a new board member. She is the only board member from Sandgate.

The Select Board received a query about the condition of the **bridge near 3010 Sandgate Road**. Joe Nolan says the state is responsible for bridges: he will look into this question.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says the Road Crew has been burning brush and cutting trees (including on Wuerslin Road) and has plowed as needed. More substantial tree work, including by the mailboxes at West Road, will begin soon. The initial work will be done by Blake Pike, then the Road Crew will handle. Sheila asks if neighboring homeowners are notified of tree work beforehand. Joe says work will be done only in the Town right-of-way.

OTHER BUSINESS: Karen Tendrup says she has visited Heath Grogan to remind him of the need, per Vermont Department of Health guidelines, to keep animal feed securely contained. She along with Sandy Reidy will visit the Grogan property again on Friday. Linda Schmidt shows the Board a draft of a **Town ordinance concerning animal-feed containment**. Karen will review the language alongside the language she has from the Department of Health so the Town ordinance can move forward, Julie Robertson asks if this pertains to compost. The ordinance will be written so as to allow for compost.

Linda says the state Agency of Administration has approved Sandgate's proposal for a project to **outfit Town Hall as an emergency shelter** as part of the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP). The work will be done with the help of the BCRC and will include a potable water source for Town Hall. Linda gives Joe the Statement of Work from the BCRC that will need his signature; he will review.

Linda says the **Bennington County Regional Emergency Management Committee** has asked for two representatives from Sandgate to meet quarterly with the committee, which coordinates emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve the region's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Karen and Linda volunteer to be the representatives.

February 18, 2024

Linda mentions the grant that was recently received to establish **monthly community gatherings** for Sandgate residents. Karen asks the purpose of the gatherings, and Elizabeth Daut says the hope is to connect neighbors and build cohesion that could help the Town be more resilient in the event of emergencies.

Linda says there is a bill before the state legislature that would require towns to hold **hybrid meetings** for official business, as opposed to leaving it up to the towns to choose in-person, remote, or hybrid meetings. Hybrid meetings would require training and the purchase of audiovisual equipment. She says there is a survey on the website of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) where people can express their opinions on this.

Bill Budde of the Martha Canfield Library was to attend this meeting to discuss grants available for towns to commemorate the **250th anniversary of the state**, but he did not attend the meeting. The deadline is March 1, so there might not be enough time to apply. Linda will contact Bill again.

REVIEW OF JANUARY 22 AND FEBRUARY 5 MINUTES: Before being signed, both sets of minutes will be revised to reflect the fact that John Phelps has called in to participate and is available by phone. His work schedule prevents him from attending Board meetings in person for the time being.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sandy presents the report to the Board.

SIGN ORDERS.

ADJOURN: Charlie Pike makes a motion to adjourn; Karen seconds; all in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 6:54.

THE NEXT MEETING IS THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, TO BE HELD ON MONDAY MARCH 4 AT 7:00 IN SANDGATE TOWN HALL.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Reidy and Linda Schmidt.

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