

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - MARCH 6, 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: Debra Alford, Wesley Reynolds, John Zak & minute taker, Sandy Reidy.

APPOINTMENT OF SELECTMEN'S POSITIONS: Karen Tendrup proposes that Linda Schmidt be made Selectboard Chair, saying she thinks change is needed and that someone else should have the chance to chair the Board. Linda says she does not feel she has enough Town experience at this time. The Board decides Joe Nolan remains Chair, with Karen objecting. Selectmen remain John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Sandy Reidy remains Secretary.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Debra Alford asks how **Campbell Road** is classified. She, John Zak, and Wesley Reynolds ask why their road is no longer plowed to the end, as it was for many years previously. Recently it has not been plowed all the way to the Alford/Zak property. Debra presents a record of classification changes to the road; the State and the Town seem to disagree on whether it is Class 3 or Class 4. Karen will call the State for clarification, and Joe will instruct the Road Crew to plow all the way to the end of Campbell Road going forward, a difference of 100 or so feet.

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER TOWN POSITIONS: Joe reads the list of Appointed Officers from the 2023 Fiscal Year Town Report. None is changing, except that Linda Schmidt now represents Sandgate to the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, with Karen Tendrup as alternate.

OTHER BUSINESS: Karen has called and attempted to visit Heath Grogan to tell him that his animal feed must be properly contained. Karen reiterates the need for a **Town ordinance on proper containment of animal feed**. Linda has drafted an ordinance; she will send it to Karen for review and bring it back to the Board. Karen says that in order for rats to be documented as coming from the Grogan property, they must be photographed *on the property*, not on neighbors' property. Karen asks how animal feed will be differentiated from compost in any new Town ordinance. Linda will work on this language.

At Town Meeting on March 4, it was pointed out that some **organizations that receive annual appropriations from the Town** might not have submitted the required 2023 documentation to the Selectboard explaining how each appropriation is spent. Karen called the four organizations in question to resolve this: it seems that some did submit their documentation on time but possibly to the wrong person. This issue will be resolved and the missing documentation posted on the Town website.

Karen states the **need for younger people to run for Town office and participate in Town work** in other ways.

Linda asks if Joe is ready to sign the Statement of Work authorizing the BCRC (through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, or MTAP) to move forward with helping the Town outfit **Town Hall as an emergency shelter** (including arranging for potable water). Joe has questions about the funding. Linda will ask Janet Hurley of the BCRC to attend the March 18 Board meeting to answer questions.

Linda asks Sandy if she has been able to set up an account with a computer hardware supplier, so work can begin on improving the **tech setup at Town Hall**. Sandy has not been able to reach the right person but will try again this week.

REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 19, REVISED JANUARY 22, AND REVISED FEBRUARY 5 MINUTES. All three sets of minutes are approved.

SIGN ORDERS. Orders are signed. The Auditors will be contacted to add the Selectmen to an order so the latter can be paid.

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

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY MARCH 18 AT 6:00 IN SANDGATE TOWN HALL.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Reidy and Linda Schmidt.

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