

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - AUGUST 5, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Jim Henderson, Jay Wilson, Richard Zoppel. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

DRY HYDRANTS: Linda Schmidt says two trucks from the Arlington Fire Department will be in Sandgate the evening of Tuesday August 13 to begin back-flushing and testing all dry hydrants. There will be no charge to the Town. Jay Wilson says he will repair the hydrant at the Zoppels' pond, which was damaged by a fallen tree, so the FD can test that. Richard Zoppel notes that the unusual design of that hydrant was intentional, given the depth of the pond. The FD will gather information to be sent to Troy Dare of the Rural Fire Protection Task Force, and he will advise on repairs and redesigns. Linda will fill out the paperwork necessary to get his help.

ROAD RECLASSIFICATION: Richard says **Tate Hill Road** is in very bad shape. The Board discusses the process of changing this road from Class IV to Class III and decides to schedule a site visit for approximately 30 days hence. Sandy Reidy will post a public warning on this. Jim Henderson says there are approximately 13 culverts that need repair. Jay says the process of going from Class IV to Class III is simpler than doing the reverse, which, as Jim explains, the previous Selectboard did on Tate Hill Road because of the number of culverts. Joe Nolan says the Town will receive state funds to help with this work when the road reverts to Class III. Richard suggests making this road an official historic road.

ROAD REPORT: Jim says he and Jay have discussed the next two Grant-in-Aid projects. A Better Roads Grant already covers the lower part of **West Road**. Jim has scoped the northern part of West Road, which is an important bypass when there is road damage in the Notch.

Gulleys should be repaired and gravel added so the northern section meets the minimum requirement for a class IV road. Jay says the Road Crew has been replacing culverts on **Rupert Road** and cleaning up brush. Joe says the Arlington and Sandgate Road Crews have collaborated recently on projects, which helps both towns.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT: Jim says a large grant is available. He and Jay propose work on the **culvert by Matt Tudor's house** (on Sandgate Road between Swearing Hill Road and Tudor Road), which gets heavy traffic. Jim will complete this application.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Richard says a few people in Town have asked him about the need for occasional **police patrols** in Sandgate, after the recent accident on Southeast Corners Road.

OTHER BUSINESS: Joe brings up the complaint **John Grover** made to the Town in the May 6 Selectboard meeting, regarding damage to his trailer he says happened when he drove on Rupert Road while it was being graded. Linda spoke this week with Kelly Kindestin, manager of property and casualty claims at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, which holds the Town's insurance policy. Kelly said the Town should file a claim, after which the VLCT will assign an adjuster who will investigate the incident. Kelly made it clear that towns are not required to post signs when road grading is being done. Linda will fill out and submit the claim form.

John Phelps asks how the Town can improve **emergency communications** (with police, FDs, EMS, etc.). All agree this is a priority. It is now the first priority in the Town's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. Linda says she plans to bring up this question at the next Regional Emergency Management Committee meeting, to be held August 20 in Arlington. This quarterly meeting brings together police, fire departments, EMS, other emergency personnel, road crews, selectboards, and emergency management directors to share ideas and concerns. John, Karen, Joe, Jim, and Richard say they are interested in attending the meeting. Linda will share

the invite. Jay says Fidium might be able to help with a solution for Sandgate. John asks if funding is available.

The Selectmen sign two access permits.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF JULY 15 MINUTES: John motions to approve the minutes; Karen seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie motions to adjourn; Karen seconds; all in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 6:54.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY AUGUST 19 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.