

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Sheila Kearns. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE PROGRAM (MERP): Sheila Kearns says she and Richard Zoppel have completed the application for a grant to the Town through this program. She gives the Board a printed summary of items covered in the application, all improvements that would increase energy efficiency at Town Hall and the Town Garage. Sheila says these improvements will not pay for themselves in energy-cost savings. However, no match is required from the Town, so the grant is an opportunity to replace, with no Town outlay, systems and materials (for example, HVAC equipment, windows, insulation, lighting) that will need replacement eventually. The grant would include money for a project manager/clerk to oversee the work and handle administrative duties. Linda Schmidt asks if the Town could decide after the fact not to do some of the improvements on the list; Sheila says yes. Joe Nolan asks what would happen with any surplus grant money; Sheila says the Town could choose something else to spend the surplus on. John Phelps points out that heat pumps do not provide enough heat at the coldest temperatures; Sheila says the propane heating system would be replaced, and heat pumps would supplement it. The grant is funded through the Vermont Agency of Administration, Buildings and General Services. Joe motions to submit the application; Linda seconds; all in favor.

CITIZENS CONCERNS: None raised.

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda says she is waiting to hear back from Brian Hawley, Arlington Fire Chief, on final documentation of the **dry-hydrant testing**, which must be sent to Troy Dare, so any repair/replacement work can be planned. Joe says he will contact Brian as well.

Linda recently asked the Rupert Selectboard Chair and the Arlington Town Administrator if they have advice on finding **Listers**, as Jeanne Zoppel will leave her post at the end of February and will not run for re-election. Linda asks if the Town should consider hiring someone to assist Listers with administrative work, and if multiple towns could jointly hire this help, since it seems many towns are having trouble finding Listers. Sheila says Listers are elected to perform certain duties and that the role of any non-elected assistant must be carefully defined and would require some professional knowledge. Joe asks about progress on getting potable **water at Town Hall**; Linda says she received estimates for a new expansion tank and a water-treatment system to address contamination. She has passed these estimates to Janet Hurley of the BCRC and Frank Parent, the consulting engineer, and they are reviewing. Any work would be funded through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP).

ROAD REPORT: Joe says the Road Crew finished work on Rupert Road and will now turn to grading and weed whacking.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Board reviews the report.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 3 MINUTES: Karen Tendrup motions to approve the minutes; Joe seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie Pike motions to adjourn; Linda seconds; all in favor. The meeting is adjourned at 6:32.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY OCTOBER 7 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.

September 16, 2024