

# **SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - MAY 5, 2025**

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Linda Schmidt, Rob Viglas. Also present: Elizabeth Daut, Jim Henderson, Bill Mitchell, Dan Reap. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

**CITIZEN CONCERNS:** Elizabeth Daut thanks everyone for their participation in Green Up Day.

**ROAD REPORT:** Joe Nolan says the plow truck has been fixed. He says the Green Up Day party was a big success. The Road Crew is hauling gravel again this week.

**GRANT IN AID FOR 2026:** Jim Henderson asks if the letter of intent (with VTrans, for hydrologically related road work) has been signed. The Board signs the letter.

**APPOINTMENT OF LISTER:** Linda Schmidt motions to appoint Jeanne Zoppel to a one-year term as a lister; John Phelps seconds; all in favor.

## **APPOINTMENTS TO GOVERNING BOARD OF SOUTHERN VERMONT COMMUNICATIONS**

**UNION DISTRICT:** Linda motions to appoint Sheila Kearns and Logan Wuerslin as Sandgate's representatives to this board; Joe seconds; all in favor.

**MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MTAP):** Jim says he met with Advanced Water Works about a next step for the well at Town Hall. Water testing last year found coliform, e. coli, and an abnormal level of arsenic in the water. AWW has suggested a filtration system that would cost \$12K+, in conjunction with a maintenance agreement for regular filter replacement and testing. In addition, the pressure tank is not working and must be replaced to spare the well pump. John asks what a maintenance agreement would cost. Jim says he was not quoted an amount but will ask AWW. There is discussion about shocking the well, which could address the coliform and e. coli but not the arsenic. Joe says we will need quotes from two other vendors. Jim will find out how much money is left in the grant to cover these costs, and will look for two other vendors to give quotes.

**COMPLIANCE WITH STATE OPEN MEETING LAW:** This has been discussed at previous meetings, and no concerns have been raised by the public. Linda motions—due to lack of technical equipment and expertise, and lack of interest in a real-time solution on the part of the public—to simply make audio recordings of Selectboard meetings available on the Town website after each meeting, rather than provide live public participation by video. John seconds; all in favor.

**UPDATE ON TOWN AUDIT:** Linda says Town Auditor Peter Markalunas has contacted four accounting firms about a professional audit. Two have responded so far, and both recommend—given that the last audit was done 15 years ago—an interim consultancy, before a full audit, to bring data into order and make a full audit easier and possibly less expensive. John asks the purpose of the interim consultancy. Linda says the Auditors will attend a future Board meeting to explain further, once they have responses from the other firms.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Linda says that at the end of May Brian Hawley, Arlington Fire Chief, will bring a consultant to the dry hydrant at Southeast Corners Road to see if a bridge-mounted hydrant is feasible. Joe says he has spoken to the people who park trailers and other vehicles in front of the current hydrant and pointed out that this blocks hydrant access.

**SELECTBOARD VACANCY:** Joe says the Board will now go into Executive Session to discuss this. When the Board returns, Joe says they have decided not to appoint a fifth member and to continue as a four-person Board until more help is needed. Joe and Linda say the largest and most complex project before the Board this year is the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) work. As part of this grant-funded work, a project manager has been hired. Before the Board decides who the main contact will be for this project manager, he will be invited to a Board meeting to explain what is needed.

#### **SIGN ORDERS.**

**ADJOURN:** Rob Viglas motions to adjourn; Linda seconds; all in favor.  
The meeting is adjourned at 7:28.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY MAY 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.*