

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
October 21, 2021
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

Board Members Present Using Microsoft Teams: Kellie Merrell and Peter Griffin

Board Members Present: Ken Linsley and Kristin Franson

Board Members Absent: Eric Bach

Others Present Using Microsoft Teams: Audrey DeProspero

Others Present: Keith Gadapee, Richard Chase and Michael Hogue

Meeting was called to order by Chair Ken Linsley at 6:00 pm. Meeting postponed until technical difficulties were resolved. Meeting then called to order at 6:20 pm.

1. **Additions to the agenda:** Update on Wastewater Plant
2. *Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Kristin Franson to approve **minutes** of the **Regular meeting of October 7, 2021** with change to spelling of 'Tobey' to 'Toby'. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.*
3. **Visitor:**
 - Walter McNeil – NEKWMD – absent

- Richard Chase – TH78 Culvert – discussed man-made pond and his removal of the Town's 12" metal culvert without permission to divert the water to his pond, the state's involvement due to area being wetlands, and putting area back to original whereas he purchased a new 12" plastic culvert for \$375 to replace the metal culvert he removed which fell apart.

The plastic culvert installed did not meet Town specs so a letter was sent to Richard Chase from the Town indicating Richard Chase's responsibility to fix the area and culvert to Town standards or forfeit the \$500 deposit on the after the fact Road Cut permit.

Richard Chase requested the Selectboard return his \$500 deposit.

Selectboard discussed actions of Richard Chase being done without permission and the permit requirement needed from the Town prior to starting work.

Keith Gadapee discussed Road Cut permits and information of actions taken by Richard Chase, State and Town.

Kellie Merrell discussed Roads and Rights of Way policy which is on the Town's website. Noted was Richard Chase unintentionally violated the policy but the deposit is there to protect the Town as the Town will now need to put in a culvert that meets Town standards. Kellie Merrell did not think the \$500 could be reimbursed due to the policy.

Current logging operation in the area of TH-78 discussed by all parties.

Consensus is to keep the letter written to Richard Chase as is.

- Michael Hogue – Train Station
 - Video with VTrans will take place at 8 am on Friday.
 - Requesting to spend up to \$5,000 for a survey of Train Station property as there are none on record.

Motion by Kristin Franson, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to approve expenditure of up to \$5,000 for survey of Train Station property lines. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- Phasing concept for Train Station (passenger side and freight side of building) - Train Station Committee suggests both sides be done (estimate is \$386,530). Michael Hogue recommends to fund raise \$400,000. Expected monies are \$200,000 from grants, \$50,000 grant match from Town from the Capitol Fund, and the next \$50,000 goes to voters of the Town at Town Meeting. Estimated time frame is 3-4 years.

Discussed was Article for warning the expenditure of \$50,000 and the Train Committee being expected to speak on the Article on Town Meeting Day.

Michael Hogue discussed architect plans.

- Grant Writing – Michael Hogue noted the information had changed from the previous submission and he was okay with Selectboard deferring to their next meeting.

Consensus is to defer Grant Writing until November 4th Selectboard meeting.

Ken Linsley spoke of ARPA webinar whereas they spoke of grant writing. Ken Linsley has recording and will review for details.

4. **Town Clerk** (Wendy Somers)

- Tax money coming in.
- Deferred Compensation meeting scheduled for October 28 with Chip Sanville from State.
- Tax delinquencies are down.

5. **Highway Foreman** (Keith Gadapee)

- Requests authorization to sign Pilot in Aid Grant paperwork for Penny Lane.

Motion by Kristin Franson, 2nd by Peter Griffin to authorize Keith Gadapee to sign the Pilot in Aid Grant paperwork for Penny Lane. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- New dump truck RFP opening for three different trucks is being suggested to be done differently. Suggesting Selectboard choose truck with plow equipment on it. Would like to combine both to one bid opening instead of two bid openings to streamline the opening process. Spoke of one dealer having multiple lines and some trucks out there of no interest.

Ken Linsley discussed competition being a viable option.

- State employees received raise of 8% which is a \$3-\$4 increase. Information being shared because Town is coming into Budget season.

Ken Linsley suggested to reach out to neighboring towns for their comparison information.

Kellie Merrell would like to revisit compensation of the Road Crew, specifically experienced crew members versus newer and merit based compensation during Budget season.

Ken Linsley discussed, in general, approaches to a merit system based on employee performance and the possible negative implications for some employees. He thought employees in a merit system should be rewarded based on their skill base and their demonstrated performance of that skill base.

- Received calls from individuals regarding excessive speed on Cormier Road.
- Recycle Center update – concrete poured and back fill completed.

Kellie Merrell discussed visit from Emma Stuhl Environmental Analyst from State. As Kellie Merrell has been unable to get in touch with Emma Stuhl, Kellie Merrell suggested submitting summary and pictures via email.

6. **Issues and Information (All)**

- (a) **Use of Town Hall for School's Emergency Only Basis** – Audrey DeProspero – request from school to use Town Hall on emergencies only basis. PK-6 uses Methodist Church and 7-12 previously used Masonic Hall but now Tirozzi's Bakery is in there using the space so the school needs another location.

Consensus is for the school to use Town Hall on emergencies only basis

- (b) **Health Insurance (MVP/BCBS)** – Kristin Franson – compared rates from last year to this year. Suggestion was to change from BCBS (BlueCross BlueShield) Gold plan to MVP Platinum plan which is only a small increase of \$268. The MVP health plan has telehealth and BCBS does not. MVP has network and in network providers and the deductible is lower.

BCBS out of pocket expenses paid by employees discussed.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Kristin Franson to move to MVP Platinum plan contingent upon acceptable out of network providers. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

Keith Gadapee requested to have a Selectboard person explain to Road Crew employees the details of minimizing expense and maximizing coverage.

- (c) **CALEX Ambulance Service Agreement** – Ken Linsley – discussed changes.

Kellie Merrell sought Eric Bach's input.

Postponed until full Selectboard is present (Eric Bach absent).

- (d) **Sewer Ordinance** – Selectboard reviewed and discussed changes.

Consensus for document to be sent to Jim Brimblecombe to review before approving.

- (e) **Sign on Green - Peacham Corner Guild** – Audrey DeProspero – Peacham Corner Guild is seeking permission to put a sandwich board sign on the Town Green to announce the Peacham Corner Guild Christmas Show which is on November 6th and 7th. The sign will be placed on the Green on Sunday, October 31st and removed Sunday, November 7th.

Consensus is for the sign to be placed on the Green.

- (f) **Wastewater Plant** – Kellie Merrell – Jim Brimblecombe of H2O Innovations contacted Kellie Merrell regarding plants growing in the lagoon. Kellie Merrell was contacted because she works in aquatics. The concern was to identify the newly found aquatic plants. The native plants found need identifying and the other non-rooted plant also needs identification. Normally the lagoon only has duck weed which is not a problem. Kellie Merrell has emailed her contacts at the State looking for information on these plants. Kellie Merrell suggested to pull the plants out with a rake, however Jim Brimblecombe informed her that this way could not be done because it would disturb the sludge in the lagoon.

7. **Financials:** Orders to review and sign

Motion by Kristin Franson, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to authorize Chair Ken Linsley to review and sign the Financial Orders on behalf of the Selectboard. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

8. **Adjourn** – *Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Peter Griffin to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted October 26, 2021 at 9:58 am.