



Town of Mt. Vernon, Maine

Mt. Vernon Town Office
1997 North Road
Mt. Vernon, ME 04352
(207) 293-2379
Fax (207)283-3507
Email selectboard@mtvernonme.org
Website <http://mtvernonme.org>

Mt. Vernon Selectman's Minutes

Date: 02-03-2020

Members Present: Trish Jackson, Clyde Dyar, Paul Crockett (Chair)

Members Absent:

Present: Alexander Wright, Ron Lockwood, Sherene Gilman, Ray Carrier, Dana Dunn, Robert Grenier, Mac Hardy, David Fuller, Bill Brown, Lee Dunn, and Kerry Casey

1. Signed Warrant.
2. Call to order: 7:00 pm
3. Additions/adjustments to the Agenda:
4. Action/Discussion/Informational Items

Open Regular Meeting and Accept Minutes from 01/23/20

Motion to accept the minutes by Dyar seconded by Crockett

Motion passed: unanimous

RSU 38 Superintendent

Crockett addressed the audience about the Selectboard's concerns about the rising costs and how the burden is taken by our residents. Crockett asked if Jay Charette and Bridgett Williams could elaborate how the school allocates funds from the state, municipalities and other sources. Then could explain the breakdown and an explanation of why Mt Vernon may pay more per students compared with other towns. Williams presented the Selectboard along with the rest of the audience a copy of a packet describing, the breakdown of the allocation of funds from various sources including the State and Municipality (copies are available at town hall). Casey asked if our evaluation goes up it would increase the 3-year average. Williams confirmed and went further to say that since Mt Vernon's evaluation is higher and student count is low compared with other towns that are the reason why Mt Vernon pays more per student. Dyar mentioned having joint meetings regularly with the district to discuss joint ventures and other business-related items. Williams says the meetings happened some time ago and was phased out over administrations. Dyar mentioned he would like to see this possibly happen again in the future. Crockett asked

when the next meeting joint meeting is? Wright responded the meeting is March 11th. Charette went further to discuss the budget progress for this year, mentioning their goal is to have very low budgetary increases this year. If there are any questions let him know and he would be happy to answer them.

North Taylor Rd, Ray Carrier

Ray Carrier, talked to the Selectboard about the issue of flooding on his driveway and has requested the Road Commissioner to replace the culvert several times to prevent the erosion of his driveway. Carrier went further to describe that without the culvert it would continue to flood his road. Carrier wanted to let the Selectboard know that he is building a second home on his property and he is seeking legal counsel about the destruction of property as the result of not having a culvert replaced. Carrier says he is asking the Selectboard for help. Dyar mentioned that he is a veteran and he is not aware of having priority for services. Crockett discussed how the road was abandoned along time ago, but a couple of years ago there was some maintenance done, putting the town on the hook for some of the road. However, it continues to be abandoned beyond the point to which they did maintenance. Lee Dunn said he will try to address the culvert problem with Ray Carrier.

Economic Development Committee, grant application

David Fuller and Bill Brown presented to the Selectboard a grant application for the village area septic system. Brown went further to discuss the list of holding tanks in the village area and described the goal of the grant is to pay for \$90,000 of the \$100,000 projected cost to conduct studies for some of the preliminary information needed. Crockett mentioned we are going to get a warrant article for the annual town hall meeting for this project together if they are going to ask the town for money. David Fuller talked about how up to 15 holding tanks are in the downtown village area and some of them are old and need replacing. The deadline for the grant application is 02/06/2020.

Motion by Dyar second by Jackson to have the chair sign the grant
Motion passed: unanimous

Tool Library

Sherene and Sandy Wright presented to the Selectboard their proposal for a Tool Library sponsored by the Community Partnership Program. Expanding on their plans and having the town to put up some walls. Crockett proposed the town would buy the materials and pay for the putting up of the walls and electrical improvements. Crockett discussed further there is \$6,600 left in the capital improvement fund and suggests the town could pay for it. The Selectboard agreed they are good with the plan. Dana Dunn asked if there are any tools that people could get hurt, would be liable. Sandy Wright went further to say there will be nothing that people get hurt with, no chainsaws and other potential hazards. Wright went further to say someone is moving and is donating their tools to the library. Wright said they will discuss the administration of the library at a later time.

Budget Plan for Fiscal year 2020-2021

Selectboard spoke with Dana, Lee, and Bob and they agreed they could all meeting on March 28th sometime in the morning to discuss our budget. Crockett said the official day is the 28th of March.

Proposed Policies: Bidding and Purchasing Policy, Policy Review, Advertising on Municipal Property, Solicitation Policy

No action taken

Executive Session pursuant to 36 MRSA §841(2)

Motion by Dyar seconded by Jackson to go into executive session

Motion passed: unanimous

Other Business

Warrant Discussion

Crockett discussed finalizing the warrant for the special town hall meeting. Crockett listed through the warrant items: Transfer Station, Tax collector/Clerk/ Treasurer/ Office Coordinator new job descriptions, authorizing the library to expend funds, and make the Treasurer position appointed. Crockett mentioned that they had the governance committee reconvened to look into municipal positions since some of the positions were voted on by the town 10 years ago. Bob Grenier raised concerns about the Treasurer position and the financial implications of changing the position should be considered at a forum before we move forward with finalizing them at a special town hall meeting. Grenier, went further to discuss how the creation of Office Coordinator looks like a secretarial job instead of an administrative position. Dana and Lee raised concerns about changing the position of Administrative Assistant to Office Coordinator. Dana asked the question of what is the difference between an Office Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. Crockett referred to the governance committee came up with the wording. Dana went further to say that there must be some meaning behind the word change. Crockett referred to a petition that was given earlier that day. Grenier talked about how the change in the name is not seen in other towns and a concern that the change would have the implication of changing the role of the current position of Administrative Assistant. Crockett referred to the governance committee had conducted meetings with all the office staff about their positions and discuss what would be the best moving forward for the town, as listed in the governance committee report. Crockett suggested that we could change the title on the floor of the special town hall meeting. Casey mentioned to the Selectboard that we should look at what the governance committee brought forward and also look at the responsibilities undertaken currently by the position moving forward and reexamine if a town administrator position is better suited. Crockett mentioned he has no problem sending this back to the governance committee and suggests changing the title. Dana mentioned how he was concerned over the

lack of time that transpired from the governance committee report and setting up a special town hall meeting. Crockett mentioned that we can discuss the position further and ask what the governance committee suggests. Crockett, mentioned time for the special town hall meeting, the date and time will be decided sometime this week, maybe the 17th.

Dyar proposed a blank Five Seasons Liqueur license for Five Seasons. Dyar and Crockett mentioned that they have not heard any complaints about the Five Seasons. The Selectboard agreed to move forward.

Motion to sign the Five Seasons liqueur renewal

Motion passed: unanimous

The Selectboard agreed with the ACO position to move on and start advertising the position. Dyar mentioned that he thanks the Selectboard for giving him a shot to renew his license. The Selectboard agreed to have the ACO serve for the remainder of the month of February. Crockett is asked about the job description and using the one MMA provided.

Mac Hardy discussed the progress for the Wingsmills Dams and they are bidding the project now. Siting they should get the bidding results back by April.

5. Adjournment: 9:05 pm

Motion by Jackson seconded by Crockett to adjourn

Motion passed: unanimous