

Town of Mount Vernon
Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2019

The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2019

Present: Paul Crockett, Trish Jackson, Clyde Dyar, Marti Gross, Ron Lockwood, Mark Gilbert, Alex Wright, Amanda Couture

6:30pm **Signed Warrant.**

7:00pm **Opened regular select board meeting.**

7:01pm **Approved minutes.** Dyar motioned to approve minutes of December 24, 2018 meeting. Jackson seconded. Vote 3-0 in favor.

7:02pm **Cable TV franchise fee.** Dyar had interest to notify cable company that the town would like to review the town franchise fee. Dyar stated the contract has been extended automatically for another five years. He will attempt to locate the initial agreement to see if that is indeed the case. Dyar stated he was under the impression that if the Town submitted a letter before January 1st, the Town could review the fee. A letter was filed and Dyar would like them to come in to discuss the agreement.

The Board received from Charter that they sent a renewal letter on March 28, 2018 and the current agreement expires in 2021. There was discussion about which public buildings receive courtesy service.

Lockwood stated the franchise fee is paid by the subscribers and he is charged \$3.31 per month for a franchise fee. He added there is no point in getting a franchise fee that is any higher than what covers Gilbert's and Lockwood's costs. Lockwood feels it should be negotiated down if anything. There was discussion about the franchise fee. Crockett suggested the town review if what they are receiving amounts to what is being charged to town subscribers.

Crockett will forward the contract to Lockwood and Gilbert.

Dyar stated he is interested in the broadband side of negotiating service in areas that do not meet the population density requirements.

7:15pm **Review potential ordinance update ideas.** Jackson suggested some ordinances to consider, including plastic bag and foam ban, set back changes on private roads, limitations on leaving pets outdoors, requirements for new driveways to address run-off, and others.

Jackson stated the plastic bag and foam ordinance is not uncommon in Maine communities, and Belgrade recently passed one. There was discussion about whether the Select Board as a whole would support this. Dyar suggested focusing on education first. Crockett stated possibly local retail establishments would choose to get ahead of this and do something voluntarily.

Set back changes on town roads. Crockett stated he is of the opinion that setbacks on public and private roads are too harsh. Dyar stated he is opposed to adjusting setbacks on roads. There was further discussion regarding this, including what some other towns are doing, and limitations on what road could become a public road. Crockett motioned to ask LUO Committee to review road setbacks

Limitations on leaving pet outdoors. Jackson stated last year the ordinance review committee tried to pass a similar ordinance but it was too broad. Jackson would like to the ordinance to be changed to make it illegal to leave animals outdoors without proper shelter when it is too hot or cold. This would go beyond state code and hopefully cause people to be more cognizant of the welfare of their pets. Jackson will research this through MMA.

Commercial water extraction ban. Crockett asked if it was determined there were no commercially viable aquifers. Crockett stated he would like to find out if there are any viable aquifers before they pursue this.

Retail marijuana moratorium or ban. Crockett stated that theoretically they could do an ordinance but he would not support a moratorium or a ban. There was a discussion about whether an indoor grow area would be considered agriculture since it is not included in LUO. Jackson stated that she has read several towns in Massachusetts are having problems with heavy traffic. Stated that consumption of marijuana has spiked in the schools with the recent change in the laws. They have discussed hiring a student resource officer. Dyar stated that the state regulations have not been completed yet and we are in the same place as last year. Crockett stated there are two issues to tackle, one is the agricultural side of it, and the other is the retail side of it.

Fireworks ban and restrictions. Jackson stated she would favor this because it has been so dry and hot in the summer. Lockwood stated there has been a fire related to fireworks. There was further discussion about how an ordinance would be enforced. Jackson stated at least if it was in an ordinance the Town could follow up on that and show that it is illegal. Crockett stated he is more concerned with wildlife and pets more than fire. Jackson asked Lockwood if the fire department would be in favor of this. He stated he could not speak for the fire department but possibly a permit for fireworks may be a sound idea. Wright agreed with the idea of a permit. There was discussion about what the state regs are. The Board decided to follow up with MMA on this and propose ordinances.

Requirements for new driveways to address run-off. Dyar stated the town should take a look at requiring bar ditches so that water goes off to the side instead of out into roads. Dyar will speak with Marble about this.

Dyar suggested inviting the ordinance review committee in to discuss all recommendations. Crockett will forward the list to Herman.

7:50pm **Review upcoming start of budget season.** Crockett noted that the Board has their own homework to complete on this topic. He added that the Board will need to decide whether they decide to begin work on the town office roof. The idea was to replace the front walkway with a covered roof over the ramp, they will probably need a new front door, and lights need to be improved, among other items.

7:50pm **Wings Mills damn.** Crockett stated he has been asked by Belgrade Select Board members about signing an inter-local agreement to manage the Wings mills damn. The damn is currently extremely compromised and leaking. Dyar suggested doing a onetime contribution towards the repair. Crockett will reach out to Doug McCafferty and get more info.

7:57pm **Other business.**

-Voting is open 8am-8pm at the Community Center for the RSU 18 bond. If anyone would like to have a formal conversation about the structure of the RSU, the Board invites them to come to a select board meeting

- Waste management will fix the **compactor** at the transfer station.

- **Christmas trees.** Crockett would like to acknowledge Scott Herrick for providing the beautiful tree at the beach and many others held put it up and take it down. Crockett stated the CC board stated they would like to take down the old Christmas tree because it takes up space they would like to use when there are events down there. Jackson stated she can only speak for herself but thought that would be a great idea. Dyar agreed.

- Gross stated the town received \$39k from Maine Emergency Management for the October 2017 storm that caused damage. This helped fill an overdraft of the Roads budget that was caused due to damage from the storm. The town is still awaiting FEMA money.

-Jackson reminded the Board that they need to do a **salary survey** for the Budget Committee.

-Dyar stated there are issues with MDOT and he is concerned he has not received a response from them. MDOT wants to replace the culvert by the fire station that crosses the North Road. CPC stated if they are going to replace one then they should replace all of them. There was concern regarding invasive water-wort. They suggest an open bottom culvert be installed because it is more fish friendly.

-Dyar has a call into Sewell Engineering to get info for Wright regarding **broadband**.

-Dyar is also working on an ongoing **solar project** at the transfer station to help cut down on electricity costs for the town. Crockett asked if there would be budget ramifications. Dyar responded not at this time.

Wright stated the school is also considering installing 2-3 acres of solar panels on school property. Additionally, March 6 is the joint school and select board meeting.

8:11pm **Adjourn.** Dyar motioned to adjourn. Crockett seconded. Vote 3-0 in favor.