



## Town of Mt. Vernon, Maine

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### **Mt. Vernon Selectman's Minutes**

**Date: 06-08-2020**

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

Members Absent:

Present: Alexander Wright, Kerry Casey, Joe Young, Mac Hardy, Mac Hardy, Bob Grenier

#### Signed Warrant.

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

Open Regular Meeting and Accept Minutes from 05/25/2020

Tabled to next meeting

#### Broadband Committee, Joe Young

Seth Wright, spoke about the Broadband committee, speaking to the breakdown of the companies that provide access to broadband, along with the statistics of the demographics, 64% use Spectrum. Comparing Consolidated with Spectrum in terms of speed to consumer. Wright continued about the possibility of expanding Spectrum service for 1.6million about half covered by Spectrum, other state funding, and grants to provide service to all Mt Vernon residents. Fiber to Home, the state-of-the-art technology, would cost 5.1million about half raised by the town. This could be funded through instituting a fee for the service to pay down the Bond, requiring 75% of the people to take the service. Example: Chesterfield in New Hampshire. Working out the details of maintenance, and management of the system. Wright continued that they are working with the provider companies to figure out how they could do it. Joe Young spoke about how Chesterfield in New Hampshire, does not pay for the bond directly it collected through the charge to the consumer, and the town guarantees the bond. The committee is exploring the options of having other companies come into town, along with setting up standards and setting up a regional consortium. Young continued to speak about setting up a website and utilizing marketing, analyzing costs for the future. Crockett asked for a timeline, Young could not provide one yet,

Crockett mentioned that they are finishing the budget for the year 2020-2021. Jackson asked about calculating more impoverished residents and their access, corresponding to the lower cost. Wright spoke about its commonplace. Dyar asked about forming an official agreement, Young wasn't sure what structure is necessary. Young continued that if they formed a system to bill out to town than it would form into a broadband utility district. Dyar mentioned did a formal entity, should look at 501C3. Crockett asked about coverage rate, Young looked at 100% service availability. Wright talked about communication, they want to gauge interest, having a survey for the public, and run it by the Selectboard. Crockett mentioned the Selectboard is not interested in looking adding anything to the Warrant.

Contracts: EcoMaine, Nate Savage, Traiono.

Crockett spoke about the work he and Wright did and gave a synopsis of negotiations for Traiono and EcoMaine.

**Motion** to Sign the Eco Maine Contract seconded Jackson

**Motion** passed: unanimous

**Motion** by Dyar seconded by Jackson to have Chair sign Nate Savage Contract

**Motion** passed: unanimous

Audit Update, Treasurer

Kerry Casey spoke to the auditors, no definitive date, and Casey is working on them to get the audit out to us.

Annual Town Hall Meeting, review of the Warrants

Steve Hayes moderator, having the meeting at the Mt Vernon Elementary School (Maybe Outside), Wright mentioned corrections to be made. Adding an article for poverty abatements, to partial abate lands. Wright will make corrections and send it to the Selectboard and Budget Committee. The Selectboard brought up some concerns about future project costs.

Appointments: Planning Board, ACO, Treasurer

**Motion** to appoint Fred Webber and Chad Dwelley to the planning board seconded by Jackson

**Motion** passed: unanimous

Adoption of Annual Policies: Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for State Fees, Disbursement Warrants for Municipal School Costs, Disbursement Warrants for Wages and Benefits.

**Motion** by Crockett to accept all three policies seconded by Jackson

**Motion** passed: unanimous

Other Business

Bob Grenier spoke about his concerns for the breakdown of the budget and its possible application for next year. Grenier spoke about looking for other people if needed. Jackson

spoke about maybe merging positions, to have an all-year position. The Selectboard thanks Bob for all of his work and continuing work.

4. Adjournment: 9:15 pm

**Motion** to adjourn by Jackson seconded by Crockett

**Motion** passed: unanimous