

Mt. Vernon Selectboard Minutes - DRAFT

March 15, 2021

Board Members Present: Sherene Gilman, Paul Crockett, Mac Hardy (Chair)

Support Staff & Guests Present: Kerry Casey, Melanie Knox, Heather Wheeler, Scott Herrick, Andrew Marble, Josh Neptune, Ron Lockwood and Mark Gilbert

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hardy at 7:00 pm

Motion & Discussion on Accepting Minutes from 3-1-21 Selectboard Meeting.

ACTION: Selectman Gilman motioned to accept the minutes as corrected and submitted by Melanie. 2nd by Selectman Crockett. Vote was Unanimous.

Sign Application for Josh Neptune Automobile Recycling Permit. Josh attended meeting and asked that the Town of Mt. Vernon issue him a 30-day permit. This is not a junkyard, no more than 2 vehicles for 2 days in driveway. He must obtain a permit from the Town of Mt. Vernon to apply for a recycling permit from the State of Maine. Scrap autos go to Oakland for recycling and fluids etc. are drained at that facility. CEO Comments, last page, bullet above says, "there shall be no dismantling or draining of fluids on site". Addition, "as in relation to auto recycling". Comments to remain with permit.

ACTION: Selectman Crockett motions to have Chairman Crockett sign the application for a permit. 2nd by Selectman Gilman. Vote was Unanimous.

Modern Pest Update and Contract Decision. Steve Overlook of Modern Pest did walk thru town office with Chairman Hardy. Traps they use hold 20 mice. Mt. Vernon Fire Station currently using successfully. Cost for 6 inside traps is \$1199 annually and staff visit 1x monthly to take care of traps. Outside traps to trace where the mice have been cost \$3,000 annually. Chairman Hardy recommends going with the inside traps. Selectman Crockett suggested we prorate the bill for rest of this year and use money from capital improvement as opposed to having special town meeting. We could afford \$100 to \$200 per month. Upfront costs are \$405, then \$78 monthly.

ACTION: Chairman Hardy motioned to contact Modern Pest and go with initial cost and \$78 monthly for the rest of this year and will sign contract on behalf of the town of Mt. Vernon. 2nd by Selectman Crockett. Vote was Unanimous.

Andrew Marble resigned and gave 6 weeks' notice, last day being April 26th. He is increasing his time to 2 days in Rome. He recommended that Town of Mt. Vernon could also use 2 days a week. He also offered to work a little longer if replacement needs training etc. If perspective applicant has no plumbing experience, I will work with them. Internal and septic, I have put feelers out. Two towns have collaborated (Wayne and Readfield) and made a full-time position interlocal. You may want to pay less for this position and give them 2 full days during the summer and consider an interlocal arrangement.

Budget Discussions:

- **Heather-** The Town Clerk position is currently a salaried, elected position. The job is 32 hours a week for 52 weeks. On a regular week, Heather works 35-36 hours. She also participates in elections and town meeting. She is requesting to be compensated for that time if position is changed to hourly. \$22 hourly for 35 ½ hours plus elections and town meetings. She noted that this position has been salaried for 20 plus years. Heather wishes to remain on salary. Budget stays the same if salaried. Heather also requested that Deputy Clerk get an hourly raise and that the Selectboard consider Gemini as a backup for TRIO.
- **Scott Herrick-**Did not get to speak with TRIO about Gemini backup module (1562) that is part of TRIO. Scott will compare to what we are using now. Town of Mt. Vernon will be forced to go cloud based TRIO at some point in the future. Pros with cloud based is we don't manage data; it lives on server and on the west coast. Cons if indeed you lose your internet connection, you have no access to TRIO cloud-based system. Bottom line -will have to go cloud based. Scott recommends \$79 backup program from Canada nightly would equal 70,000 hours of time and be backed up off site. 2 external hard drives, one goes off site on Thursdays and plug in alternate. Two layers of redundancy. 3rd get a 256-gig memory stick and set up windows file history so every 4 hours it backs up. Speed increase 1 tera bite is \$89. Take image and push to SSD drive, would take ½ hour. Selectman Crockett said we would like to get the server out of this building. \$3675 is cost for one-time upgrade to hosted version. Selectman Crockett suggested we schedule a demo. Cost would include two external drives @ \$59 ea. and \$79 license that Scott will provide. Uninterruptible battery pack on server \$59.95. Demo will be scheduled.
- **Bob Grenier/Sexton-**Cemeteries went up a few hundred dollars, otherwise the budget stayed the same. Requested cemetery and municipal lawns carryover be rolled into capital funds.
- **Transfer Station.** Machines shutting down were not overloaded, but an issue with the sensors. We got charged a few extra hauls, but the problem has now been corrected. No overflow container will be needed. Carole feels the containers she requested will solve the problem. Carole also suggested that Wednesday hours should be changed to 3 to 6 pm as the 6 to 7 pm time frame now in place is not being utilized. A volunteer has come forward to build a 3-sided shelter at the solid waste compactor to protect staff from rain and winds. Town of Mt. Vernon will buy materials. Budget recommendation was \$135,000, no money carried.

On and Off-Road Plowing Contracts – Opening Bids

- On road we received 1 bid on 3/11 (Lee Dunn) This year \$221,030.

ACTION: Selectman Crockett motioned to accept bid with caveat that he doesn't like year 4. 2nd by Selectman Gilman. Vote was unanimous.

- Off road we received 2 bids. (Jason Wheeler \$11,500 for all 3 years) and (John Currier \$11,100, \$11,200, and \$11,300 for 3 years).

ACTION: Selectman Gilman motioned to accept bid for off road contract from John Currier. 2nd by Selectman Crockett. Vote was unanimous.

UPDATES:

Approval & Signing of Committee Appointments. Garrett Murch, Planning Board and Cheri Wenzel, Community Center had new 5-year appointments signed by Selectboard.

ACTION: Chairman Hardy motioned to appoint. 2nd by Selectman Crockett. Vote was Unanimous.

CMP decision on running lines to Community Center from Fire Station. Chairman Hardy met with CMP again and they will be making a final decision within the next few days to let us know if they will cover the cost for this project or the Town of Mt. Vernon will need to cover the cost. Based on warming center idea, they thought it may sell. More to come.

RSU #38 Budget Follow-up. Chairman Hardy attended meeting. This year's RSU #38 budget is increasing by \$519,000. 2.75% increase overall. The question is, because we have 90 kids exchanged between school systems, when kids go to other schools, the state funds them. 10 Mt. Vernon students go to school in Readfield, mostly -elementary level. Why? Is it special needs or programs we do not provide? Do those 10 kids effect our student count. Chairman Hardy contacted Alex Wright, who will research and get back to the Selectboard.

Town of Belgrade Inter-Local Waste Management Agreement with Mount Vernon.

ACTION: Selectman Crockett motioned to sign the Belgrade Inter-Local Waste Management Agreement. 2nd by Selectman Gilman. Vote was Unanimous.

Zoom Cancellations. Please notify ZOOM attendees if meeting is cancelled.

Spectrum Franchise Contract. Paul will send to Selectboard on Tuesday, March 16.

FEMA. Treasurer Casey reported that package submitted to MEMA and on the way to FEMA. \$108,000 the Town of Mt. Vernon is waiting for.

Draft Policy on Committee/Boards Roles & Responsibilities (Sherene). Tabled till next meeting.

Town Buildings Furnace Cleanings (Paul). MTV Heating has cleaned or is scheduled to clean Town of Mt. Vernon buildings/facilities.

Athletic Budget. Selectman Gilman reached out to Heidi Perez regarding Athletic Committee budget. She requested \$3500 for programming year -there was no request for the previous year. She also requested rolling the \$1000 stipend into the budget, but that is not possible. Selectman Gilman explained that the intent was to get administrative help for the chair or committee and cover programming costs. If not being used, it won't go back in. Heidi requested we split the athletic association fields into capital vs. the programming that is allotted. Selectman Gilman highly recommends we do that.

Office 365 Estimate. Selectman Crockett will send cost to Selectboard.

Paid Time Off “draft”. Treasurer Casey crafted a letter to the town employees affected by this policy and was given approval to send the letter out.

Executive Session -Personnel Discussion 1 M.R.S.A. Subsection 405(6)(A). No votes came out of executive session.

Motion to Adjourn.

ACTION: Chairman Hardy motioned to adjourn meeting at 9:45. 2nd by Selectman Gilman. Vote was Unanimous.