

Mt. Vernon Selectboard Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2021

1997 North Road, Mt Vernon, ME 04352

Board Members Present: Paul Crockett (Chair), Anna Libby, Robert Grenier

Support Staff & Guests: Alice Counts (Administrative Assistant), Mark Gilbert (Ch 7), Kerry Casey (Treasurer), Barry Skilling, Maureen Brescia

Select Board Members Signed Weekly Warrant (6:30-7:00)

Meeting Called to Order

- SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Crockett at 7:01pm

Meeting Minutes of 11-08-21

- Motion by SB Libby to accept the meeting minutes as written, 2nd by SB Grenier. Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Policy Updates

- **No Smoking Policy** –Motion by SB Grenier to accept the No Smoking Policy as amended, 2nd by SB Crockett. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
- This qualifies the Town for a \$350 grant. Alice Counts to Forward the signed copy of this policy to the Healthy Communities of the Capital Area.
- The remainder of the Policy Manual was tabled until the select board could further review. SB Crockett is looking for an updated version with regards to bidding that was passed in the January 2021 time frame. Treasurer Casey is going to revise the following sections:
 - Chapter 7 Employee Wages and Benefits Disbursement Warrants – insert verbiage regarding when and how much of the stipend can be requested at once.
 - Chapter 8 Financial Policies Ordinance – this needs a total rework
 - Section 8.7.2 Tax Collector/Town Clerk – this is not currently how this job is performed
 - Section 10.3 Filing – Update or reword
 - Section 11.5.1 Work Week – massage this so that it applies to both the Town Hall and Transfer station.
 - Section 11.9 Sick Leave and 11.10 Personal Time – Replace with the new law regarding PTO
 - Section 11.11 Delete
- SB Grenier stated that the Select Board needs to start considering benefits for employees to stay current with the other towns in this area.

Budget Planning for 2022 –

- Treasurer Casey would like a spreadsheet for all payroll. She emphasized the fact that operating costs need to be considered and included in their budge estimates.

Emergency Manager

- We are still looking for someone to fill this spot.

Blake Hill Rd Bridge project

- SB Crockett re-emphasized that the state will close this bridge to all traffic, including foot traffic if we don't reach an agreement.
- If the Town wants the state to contribute 60% of the rebuild costs, then we need to build to the state's standard. This standard would require concrete columns to be constructed on solid ground with the footprint of the bridge expanded in both width and length. The new bridge would also have to be

engineered. Barry Skilling, a concerned resident, recommended that we go this route because then if anything were to go wrong, the state would have ownership in this and would have to assume the majority of the liability.

- Barry Skilling mentioned that we should check with the University at Orono to see if we could get a competitive bid for the engineering on this project and also look into a grant to possibly cover the Town's portion of this rebuild.

Annual Audit

- Treasurer Casey stated the audit is currently in progress.

E911 Updates

- SB Grenier will speak with Andy Dube regarding printing several 2x2 laminated maps which will be available for purchase to the community. These will also be available for Rescue, Fire, Planning Board, CEO and Town Office.

Trio –

- SB Crockett stated there is a web version and a hosted version. The Town paid for the web version but did not implement it. He still has some questions that he needs to bounce off Harris Computers before making a final decision. He said he would try and arrange a Zoom Meeting between the Select Board, Clerks, Treasurer and Harris Computers to get these questions answered and better understand some of the problems that currently exist with the software.

Other Business

Map/Lot Index Updates

- There is a new index to accompany the Town Map. There is a sort by name, by map/lot and by address. These indices will be updated monthly so that the information contained within them will always be current. Alice Counts agreed to provide SB Crockett with an excel file so he can prepare it for Andy Dube at Diversified Drafting for inclusion on the Town Hall Map.

EPA/DEP

- SB Grenier has been in contact with DEP as well as some of the residents regarding resolution to the reported dumping in the wetlands. SB Crockett asked SB Grenier to again talk with CEO Butler regarding this issue.

Oldest Citizen

- Marjorie Jacobs and Dorothy Kent have been added to the Town's Oldest Citizen Placard.

Solar Farms

- Ordinance Committee to Review the possibility in support of this for incoming tax revenue. This is go in front of the Town for approval. Decommissioning needs to be looked at to ensure that the owners of any future Solar Farms will take the responsibility of Removing their equipment from the land after it is no longer a viable source of energy.

Planning Board Training

- The Select Board approved Alice Counts' request to attend the Planning Board training.

Computer Purchase for Administrative Assistant

- The Select Board agreed to look into the feasibility of Alice Counts' request to purchase a new computer due to the many issues she has been experiencing with her current system.

Sign at Mooar Hill Road & Bean Road Intersection

- Maureen Brescia, another concerned resident, recommended that a sign be placed on Mooar Hill Road at this intersection due to the fact that 3 vehicles in the past 2 weeks have ended up in newly graded ditch on the opposite corner. All 3 of these vehicles were turning left off of Mooar Hill Road and heading North on Bean Road. The corner was cleared 2 weeks ago to remove the blind corner and provide improved visibility to drivers, but it seems that with the new visibility, people are driving faster and more reckless than ever. There is concern that someone will be seriously injured if there is no deterrent.

Adjourn

- SB Libby motioned to Adjourn at 9:03, 2nd by SB Grenier, Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**