

Minutes

MAIDSTONE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday, August 5, 2024

7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting, both in person at Town Hall and by Zoom Video Conference

Members Present in Town Hall (in-person): Scott Lovell, Chair and Brad McVetty

Town Officials and Staff Present via Zoom: Town Clerk and Lister Amy Pear; Treasurer, Delinquent Tax Collector, Lister, Zoning Board and Planning Commission member Bob Champagne-Willis; Assistant Town Clerk and Lister Sam Graham; Zoning Board and Planning Commission member Bruce Barker; Lister, Auditor and Health Officer Sandra Gray

Also Present via Zoom: Linwood Mixer, Sam and Carol Gorham, Bob Snowman, Laurie Snowman, Mary Von Alt, Bonnie Lovell, Ed Tully, Jan Barker and Burt Kline.

Chairman Scott Lovell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

APPROVE MINUTES

Scott made a motion to accept the July 1, 2024, Selectboard Meeting Minutes. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

SELECTBOARD:

- Discuss and act upon Selectboard Assistant or other alternatives – There hasn't been any interest in this position and the Selectboard will continue to research options and/or look for someone interested.

REPORT FROM THE ROAD COMMISSIONER

The July 11th storm caused a few washouts, not major just took some time and gravel but now fixed. The North Road and Hall Road are the worst part of it. Currently doing some ditching to clean the gravel out of the ditch and water back into the ditch and will clean it up. The box culvert on the Westside Lake Road is still scheduled to be done after Labor Day.

REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

- Amy did research on posting minutes and has not found any law that required to post minutes. They do have to be available to public at Town Hall. They also need to be recorded and put on the town website if we have one for 1 year. The new law starts with the approval of the minutes for the last month meeting will need to be posted with the zoom link.
- We are preparing for the election and absentee ballots are now available.
- Amy has been working with filing systems and record retentions in the town hall.
- Amy has also been looking to see if the Municipal Energy Grant has come out yet and there is nothing yet.
- Town thanked Scott Lovell for repairing the Town Hall roof.

- Town Hall now can take in used cell phones and batteries (18 volt or lower) that people would like to dispose. Once the container is full, it will be taken to Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District for recycling.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

- The budget-to-actual report was provided and nothing extraordinary was to be reported. The lister wages will go over budget which is attributed to the reappraisal and grievances. Other items will possibly offset the overage which is typical in other years.
- The Selectboard Warrant is on the Signing Desk for review and to be signed.
- Setting the Tax Rate for 2024 – A copy from what we did last year (2023) and a couple of options for 2024 was provided to the Selectboard. One option is the same way that we have always done it in the past. The 2nd option is with certain line items that also have income coming in that would mean we would not have to tax the taxpayers for specifically on zoning permits and animal licenses which would be offsets and reduce the amount of money that would need to be raised.

The school taxes have been affected twice since last report. In the 1st instance, the money that was supposed to be refunded to taxpayers for overpayment in 2023 will be repaid by reducing the homestead rate across the board for the 10 towns for the 2024 taxpayers. The tax rate has been reduced a little bit already to accommodate for the money that was overcharged in 2023.

Our CLA has been recalculated which changes both the homestead and the non-homestead tax rate. This is the work that the Listers did and dealing with some current use changes. The rates that were reported in the July meeting have been reduced. The homestead rate is now 1.1070 from 1.1147 and the non-homestead is now 1.2261 from 1.23.

The tax rate will be tabled until Bruno is able to be at the meeting. A special meeting will be scheduled for next Monday.

- Bob made everyone aware that there has been word If anything happens inappropriate on zoom meeting and are unable to stop it quickly, the meeting will end immediately without notice. There has been word that this is happening on meetings using Zoom.
- Town hall needs a ladder donated or needs to purchase one. Scott will bring one down.

REPORT OF THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

Steady progress with delinquent taxes. The 2 delinquent taxpayers have both reached out and are now on payment plans which will keep them from being on the tax sale list.

REPORT FROM LISTERS

The work is finished on closing out current use and now it's just monitoring the list and making small changes that happen mostly with addresses. The list has rolled over and closed out the 2024 as billed grand list and started on the 2025 working grand list. The equalization study needs to be redone for the last 3 years to come up with the CLA for next year.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update on Taylor Cemetery work:** Scott and Bruno met with R & S and they refuse to do any other work. They feel that the work is done. The work isn't complete per our contract with R & S. R & S had a town map that showed different land lines than ours and is unsure where he got the map. Scott took pictures and videos of the work that is not completed in the case that it's brought to small claims. He tried to talk with him but he was difficult to deal with. If it goes to small claims, we have the contract, videos and photos.
- **Discuss and act upon the work needed at the Town Office and ARPA Funds – floor proposal and handicap ramp carpet:** The Selectboard will create specs for the flooring to be sent out to bid to companies in the area. The carpet on the ramp is in rough shape. Brad stated he has been looking for that size carpet but hasn't found it. He believes it was specially ordered. Scott will shop it out and purchase with the ARPA funds and Scott will put it down. The ARPA funds must be accounted for by year end and there is about \$30,000. The back steps also need to be replaced or fixed as the bottom step is rotting. The Selectboard will fix them to ensure they are safe.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discuss and act upon two rolls of trash bags for non-residents.** Scott received complaints from nonresidents because they are not receiving 2 rolls. Brad let him know that anyone that would like a 2nd has always been able to have one. After some discussion, the Selectboard will leave policy as is. Nobody is denied a 2nd roll but is asked to only take it if needed.
- **Contact NVDA to be added to list for updating the Road Erosion Inventory (REI).** – Doug Morton is supposed to be up this year to have the road inventory done again but it appears they may not have time right now. They have started a list and we need to request to be added to the list by email from the Town Office. Amy agreed to send the email.
- **VLCT Conference/Training** – Registration is now open. It's \$79 per person and is a one-day training but in Killington. For the one night (2 rooms) and registration cost, it will be about \$1,100. Brad motioned to approve the training the cost of overnight for up to \$1,100. Scott seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS – NONE

ADJOURN: The business of the meeting concluded. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting for August 5, 2024; Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.