



TOWN OF VINALHAVEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

5:30 pm, Town Office

Virtual Meeting

1. **Roll Call** - Selectmen Eric Gasperini, Donald Poole, Jacob Thompson, and Phil Crossman (attending virtually); and Town Manager Andrew Dorr. Pam Alley was absent.

Also present: Yvonne Thomas, Anna Poe, Gabe McPhail, Matt Jablonski, and Jim__ with Sheridan Company.

2. **Approve Agenda** - Add 7 c. Planning and Community Development, 7 d. Fox Islands Broadband Task Force, 7 e. Community Development Corporation, 7 f. Waste Watchers, 7 g. Appoint Registrar of Voters, and 8b Portrait of a Graduate. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*
3. **Minutes** - Approve the minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*
4. **Approve and Sign Treasurer's Warrant #25** - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve and sign Treasurer's Warrant #25. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*
5. **Communications** - None
6. **Speakers from the Floor** - None
7. **Committee and Department Reports/Appointments**
 - a. **Engineer Report** - The Board reviewed the memo from Woodard & Curran with updates as of December 11, 2020. They continue to look into grant funding opportunities for Main Street and the Harbor Plan.
 - b. **Road Commissioners Report** - The Board reviewed the Road Commissioners report. Phil asked if vents had been installed in the Galamander wrap. Andy hadn't noticed that it had been done yet, but would look into it. Jake asked about flooding the ball ground and that will be done soon (if not done already).
 - c. **Planning and Community Development** - Gabe gave an update on where funding stands for the Downtown project. Currently it is assumed that the project is \$103,000 short of the matching funds, but this is subject to change depending on what is awarded from the EDA Grant. There was discussion on using reserve funds to cover the Match.

Matt gave an update on the Committee work. A draft policy is in the works which will

hopefully be presented to the Board by the first meeting in February.

- d. **Fox Islands Broadband Task Force** - The Broadband report has been presented and the next phase will be to have a series of community conversations, with the first being 6pm Wednesday, December 30, 2020.
- e. **Community Development Corporation** - The Committee has had three meetings with the next meeting on January 28, 2021. Gabe asked the selectmen to think about how this committee will help accomplish some of the Board's goals and have Donald bring that to the next CDCC meeting. The next meeting(s) will be defining the scope of the corporation and committee.
- f. **Waste Watchers** - Anna Poe and Gabe gave a review of where the compost project started (in 2018), how grant funds have been used, and how much has been diverted from the waste stream. The program began with a small selection of participants and has since expanded to the community. 6.5 tons of food scraps has been diverted and generated 15 cubic yards of compost (with more finished between spring/fall 2021). The DEP noted that Vinalhaven is the only island running its own composting program! There is about \$9000 left of the grant funds and with an extension that is available until this time next year. It is being considered that any leftover funds could be used to offset some of Kenny's time at the Transfer Station. There was discussion on building on the existing program and making it a sustainable system.
- g. **Appoint Registrar of Voters** - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to appoint Darlene Candage as Registrar of Voters. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried. (Passed for signatures.)*

8. Old Business

- a. **MSFS Safety Assessment** - The Route Risk assessment was done in 2018. There was discussion on the findings of that assessment and if all findings had been addressed. As of yet, as far as anyone knows, the service-wide Operational Safety Assessment and implementing a Safety Management System has not been conducted. There was discussion on sending a letter to the Commissioner about the dissatisfaction with the findings, results of the risk assessment, taking the Thompson from the Vinalhaven run for the Islesboro run when they have the safest and shortest run, among other grievances.
- b. **Portrait of a Graduate** - Yvonne Thomas gave an update on the POG project. A survey has been completed by high school students and starting after the Holidays there will be focus groups meeting. Similarly, there will be a survey for adults in the community in early January, followed by focus groups of those people.

9. New Business

- a. **Authorize and Sign DPW Facility Design and Build Contract** - The Selectmen were provided an overview of the building construction/reno costs. The work is expected to take 90 days. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to authorize the Town Manger to sign the contract with Sheridan Company. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*
- b. **Personnel Policy Review** - There are some items that should be updated and reviewed by legal counsel for compliance with any statute changes.

- c. **Property Tax Relief Program** - There is no ordinance or policy drafted yet, but Andy looked into potential property tax relief. There are two State statutes (M.R.S. 907A and 908A) that allows municipalities to enact programs and ordinances.

10. **Report of Town Manager -**

Andy brought up the executive order that recognizes Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve as federal holidays. (This also would be included in the Personnel Policy Review.)

The HIF Tax Exemption Request Appeal was held yesterday (Monday, December 21, 2020) and the judge now has all he needs and will made a decision.

There was a stakeholder meeting for a high speed ferry. (Arcadia Alliance Group proposal)

There is a bill being proposed for excise tax exemption for volunteer firefighters. There is also a bill to include boat yards into definitions of working waterfront.

- 11. **Report of Members** - There was brief discussion on idling vehicles and, in particular, a camper that has been on private property on Carver Street which has, on more than one occasion, run for over 14 hours straight.
- 12. **Adjourn** - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to adjourn. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Town Clerk