

**MINUTES
TOWN OF VINALHAVEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

5:00 PM

TOWN OFFICE

1. **Roll call** – Selectmen Pam Alley, Leslie Dyer, Don Young, William Olson, and Thomas Anthony; Town Manager Marjorie Stratton, and Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Bunker; Also present: Faye Grant, Phil Crossman, James Harris, Marc Candage, Pete Gasperini, all in person; via zoom: Brent Bridges, Megan McDavitt, and Kevin Trainor from Woodard & Curran, Linnell Mather, Marion Grogan, Gabe McPhail, and George Kendrick.

2. **Approve agenda** – Add 8b. Appointment to Waste Watchers Committee – *Motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

3. **Executive Session – Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E), Consultation with legal counsel** – *Motion by Tom Anthony to enter into Executive Session at 5:00 pm. Seconded by Leslie Dyer. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

Motion by Pam Alley to come out of Executive Session at 5:27. Seconded by Don Young. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

No action was taken.

4. **Minutes – approve the minutes from the August 8, 2023 meeting** – *Motion by Leslie Dyer to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

5. **Approve and sign treasurer's warrants #8** – *Motion by Leslie Dyer to approve and sign treasurer's warrants #8. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

6. **Communications** – Marjorie shared a thank you note from the Land Trust for the Town's help with cleaning up after some vandalism near Tip Toe Mountain, and for moving over 1,000 lbs of trash VLT collected from nearby islands.

7. **Speakers from the floor** - None

8. **Committee and departmental reports and appointments**

- a. **Woodard & Curran Status Report** – Brent gave an update on the status of the Downtown Project. They are entering the final design stage and are ready to submit the project to EDA for final approval and then can go out to bid. The next phase will be the parking lots and boat launches, along with moving the Water District offices. The phases are determined by the funding schedule.

It was agreed to discuss the Vinal Cove Analysis Report at this time, See 9c.

- b. **Appointment to Waste Watchers Committee** - Diane Strong would like to be appointed to the Waste Watchers Committee. *Motion by Leslie Dyer to appoint Diane Strong to the Waste Watchers Committee for a term ending June 2025. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

9. **Old business**

- a. **MSFS Rate Increase** – Phil Crossman was present to discuss the proposed rate increase. The Advisory Board recommends the 60/40 scenario. *Motion by Pam Alley to support the*

Ferry Rate increase based on the 60/40 scenario as recommended by the Ferry Advisory Committee. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

Phil also told the Board the Committee is drafting a letter to the Governor to ask for consideration of a payroll increase, across the board, to help secure positions on the ferry.

The Coast Guard is considering removing the spindles from Drunkards Ledge and Fiddlers Ledge. They consider them unnecessary.

The committee has also discussed asking for more than 50% funding from the highway fund from the state. There are two schools of thought with that – one, not to “rock the boat” and not to set off inland representatives, or two, ferry services in other parts of the state (and country) are funded to a greater extent than 50/50.

- b. Harbor Master Boat** – The maintenance issues are the main concern for the Board. Tom’s concern is it being “mission ready” at a moment’s notice. Pete’s understanding was the motor was fine, it’s an issue with the solar panel and battery. There was discussion on whether the boat is adequate for what the FD needs. Marc said it’s adequate to a point. It’s perfect for transporting equipment and starting response action – it gets the process started. Pete asked about getting the bottom coppered. Tom will ask Hopkin’s to assess the engine. There was a discussion on the solar panel not regulating the change to the battery (over-changing the battery).

- c. Vinal Cove Alternative Analysis Report – Discussion with Woodard & Curran –**

This item was taken out of order and discussed in conjunction with 8a. After this agenda item, regular order of items was resumed with 8b.

Megan gave an overview and background of the project – the flooding and road settlement. Kevin Trainor took over the presentation and detailed the work completed so far – the field survey, water level data collection, and simulated alternatives (culverts and tide gates, and road elevations.) Kevin gave Woodard & Curran’s recommendations for the project. They divided the project into two pieces: #1 would be building up the North Haven Road, and #2 would be replacing the culvert on Round the Island Road. Pam asked if there would be any grant options for projects like this. Gabe said there are many opportunities, and possibilities to work with MDOT where this is a state aid road. Ladd asked about the maintenance of the tide control gates. Kevin answered they were fairly low maintenance. They need gasket replacements every 5-10 years. Brent said routine inspection is also important. Some of these systems have been in place for 20-25 years in the Pacific Northwest. The Board asked for the location of some other installations. Don asked about permitting required and Megan said it would be very similar to the Carrying Place Bridge project. The Board asked about any options with non-moving parts.

Motion by Leslie Dyer to accept the Vinal Cove Alternatives Analysis Report and submit it to the grant agency. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

10. New business

- a. Wastewater Abatement – 5 Cottage Street** – *Motion by Pam Alley to abate the amount over and above average use for consumption at 5 Cottage Street, account #3404097401 for the invoice covering December 28, 2022, to March 28, 2023, for approximately \$2,061.00.*
- b. Statutory Discontinuance of a Road** – There was discussion on the process of statutory discontinuance of a road. It was asked who owns the road after the town discontinues it, and would a right-of-way be needed (depending on how lots are divided). There was a consensus of the Board to leave the matter as is for now, and if both parties would like to

come to the Board it can be revisited at a later time.

- c. **Coastal Communities Grant (Vinal Cove)** – Matching Funds – *Motion by Leslie Dyer to appropriate \$9,375 for required matching funds from the Roads Capital Reserve to the 2021 Coastal Communities Grant program Preliminary Roadway and Culvert Assessment to Mitigate Coastal Flooding. Seconded Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

11. Report of Town Manager – Marjorie presented the Board with a budget report for FY23. The Transfer Station was the only department that went over budget. There was a discussion on bag costs and the increase in demo costs. Marjorie will discuss revenue options with Kenny (possibly increasing demo fees and/or bag fees).

While updating files on the Town’s website, it was found that the E911 Addressing Ordinance had never been adopted. It was drafted and went to a public hearing, but no further action was taken. It can just be dealt with at the next town meeting. Marjorie reviewed other items mentioned in her memo.

12. Report of Members – Don Young said the “No Parking” signs were working well around the flea market.

13. Adjourn – Motion by Leslie Dyer to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Clerk

Next meeting: September 12, 2023