



TOWN OF VINALHAVEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

1. **Roll Call:** Selectmen Eric Gasperini, Pam Alley, Donald Poole, Jacob Thompson, and Phil Crossman; Town Manager Andrew Dorr.

Also present virtually Elin Elisofon? Gabe McPhail? Mariah Richards?

2. **Executive Session - Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) – Legal Matter** – Motion by to enter into Executive Session at PM pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) – Legal Matter. Second by . Vote / / . Motion carried.

Motion by to come out of Executive Session at PM. Second by . Vote / / . Motion carried.

3. **Approve Agenda** - Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.

4. **Minutes** - Motion by Phil Crossman to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2020 meeting. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.

5. **Approve and Sign Treasurer's Warrant #7** - Motion by Eric Gasperini. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.

6. **Communications**

- a. **Island at Risk -2020** - Andy shared an email from Michelle O'Keefe with some concerns about activity on Lanes Island.

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

8. **Committee and Department Reports & Appointments**

- a. **Appoint Board of Selectmen Chair and Co-Chair** - Phil Crossman nominated Eric Gasperini as Chair. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 3-0-1. Motion carried. Eric Gasperini nominated Phil Crossman as Co-Chair. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 3-0-1. Motion carried.

- 9. Road Commissioners Report** - The Board reviewed the Commissioners Report for the last two weeks. Ditching work continues. Eric Gasperini asked that the bushes in front of the yield sign at the intersection of Round the Island Road and Pequot road be cut back. Eric reported that some people have asked to move the crosswalk sign. If there is someone parked in the handicap spot in front of the store it is a tight fit between that and the sign stood in the middle of the road. Eric also noted that the garden at the intersection of Atlantic Ave and Water Street needs to be trimmed back. It is encroaching on the sidewalk and is impeding the view when turning at the monument square. Eric asked if the homeowner could be contacted. Pam also asked if the bushes at the end of Brighton Ave where it meets East Main could be trimmed back from the sidewalk as well. Jake asked about what kind of right-of-way the town has to trim back, and how far. Andy would look into it and send notices to property owners.

10. Old Business

- a. HIF Tax Abatement Request** - This item was tabled for a future meeting.
- b. Capital Projects Update** - Andy shared a follow-up from the DPW site visit. Two layouts were presented and Andy provided a cost breakdown. There was discussion on the timeline on finalizing the Purchase and Sales Agreement and the estimated total project completion date. There was discussion on Carrying Place Bridge. JBI is still interested in doing the work, even though their bid was originally rejected due to cost. The Town was not awarded the NBRC grant but will still be working with the program manager to see how scoring could be improved for future opportunities.
- c. Vinalhaven Runway Follow-up** - Andy has talked to one Surveyor but may seek another to get that completed sooner. Some items to follow up:
Ferry priority: (either two spots on the 8:45, or a spot on a later boat). Phil said the next advisory board meeting is in early September, so if the Board was to send a letter it should be done soon. Pam asked if this would be considered a temporary issue caused by Covid and more people shopping online. Phil proposed a time limit and see what the situation is at the end of that time period. There was discussion on using the UPS spot on days when it is available. Eric suggested requesting an additional priority on the 10:30 for the next six months. Pam asked when the Spear would be finished. Andy thought at the end of the calendar year; the timeline has been significantly delayed.
Contract renewal: PIA had proposed some changes to the contract.
Airstrip Annual Cost: Eric thought it perfectly reasonable for the Town to assume runway maintenance and to construct a shelter. Andy is still waiting for insurance quotes and there was discussion on reviewing PIA's insurance and the Town's current coverage and see if there is overlap.
Capital Improvements: There was discussion on having a land survey done and material available. There was discussion on the type of structure PIA is looking for - electricity, heated, size, etc.
- d. Law Enforcement Follow-up** - Andy presented a table outlining 5 scenarios of coverage, the FY 20 budget and the proposed FY 21 budget that was voted down. There was a discussion on the definition of a "resident" deputy. Andy reminded the Board of how this past winter was covered (4 consecutive days/3 nights), rotating deputies. There was discussion of working with the North Haven Selectboard. Phil asked how Knox County was staffed at this time. Andy said they were down one deputy, but he presumes that after August they could resume a rotating schedule.

Phil asked if a scenario was chosen, what comes next? Andy said hopefully a Special Town Meeting Warrant could be approved tonight for a certain level of funding for law enforcement purposes in general (no specific plan at this time). It would be good timing where the County has started the budget process for 2021. For the last couple days there has been a deputy on-island, but at overtime rates 100% funded by the County (but that wasn't something that could be sustained).

Gabe asked for clarification on all the things that will be going into the new proposal from those that voted the budget down at Town Meeting, specifically accountability. Eric again stated that he wanted the deputy to reside on the island in the time between shifts. Jake described the reports that Peaks Island receives and would like to see something similar from Knox County. There is a police blotter that goes out weekly that the Town Clerk used to receive and Andy has requested to get back on that mailing list so that could be shared with the Board. It includes all KC towns, and lists the type of call responded to. Gabe asked if coverage equated residency - someone being available to respond. Andy clarified residency, in this instance, means if shifts are consecutive the deputy would remain on-island for the duration of the consecutive shifts for the week. Gabe stressed that if this is going back out to the public to approve the funds, it needs to be clear how this proposal is different from the one voted down at Town Meeting (funds being voted on are not going to yield the same results as previous).

Elin Elisofon asked if it was possible to negotiate with KC and then come to the Town for those funds needed. Andy said that was possible, but the timing would be unfavorable based on tax commitment timing. Also going into negotiations with zero dollars is difficult.

There was discussion on the amount to ask for. Andy suggested the wording “to see what sum” and that way the dollar amount can go up or down from the floor. The board agreed.

11. New Business

- a. Approve and Sign Special Town Meeting Warrant** - Motion by Eric Gasperini to sign a Special Town Meeting Warrant for August 26, 2020 at 6pm at the Vinalhaven School. Article #1 to see what sum the Town will raise for law enforcement purposes from taxation and #2 amendments to the Harbor Ordinance. Second by Phil Crossman. Andy still needs to confirm with the School, but this would be an outdoor meeting similar to the law enforcement public comment meeting. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.

- 12. Report of Town Manager** - The Board reviewed the Town Manager's Report. Andy highlighted a few things: The clerks had a 2-day training with TRIO; heat pumps have been ordered for the office and should be here by the end of this month of early September; the CAT backhoe is back on the island while the new one is being fitted with attachments; Andy received a complaint about the boat launch at the Thororoughfare, PW has put some patch on it for now; Andy spoke with Kevin Moore about the High Street sidewalk and he didn't see a quick fix option so another plan will have to be developed; Andy also asked Kevin about pouring a slab under the Galamander, Andy estimates the cost between \$5500-7000, there was discussion on moving the Galamander and long-term/short-term solutions. Motion by Phil Crossman to pour a concrete slab under the Galamander from the Historic Sites budget. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 4-1-0. Jacob Thompson opposed.

Elin Elisofon asked if the Helicopter Ordinance and the Quarry Ordinance could be added to the Special Town Meeting. The Selectboard asked if there were significant enough to need another public hearing. Andy will review them for any changes. There was a consensus of the Board that they would have to wait to be reviewed and schedule a public hearing (and after current Covid restrictions are amended).

13. Report of Members –

- a.** Eric asked about the Turbines and the TIF agreement, and approaching North Haven about cost sharing.
- b.** Phil is in favor of rebuilding the High Street sidewalk. He feels Kevin Moore is capable of doing the work. Jake asked about engineering and Andy said if you use local funding you don't necessarily

need an engineer. Where it is a State Aid road he will clarify if an engineer will be needed. Phil asked to get an estimate from Kevin Moore for the sidewalk from Ingerson St. to the intersection of High Street/North Haven Road/Old Harbor Road and more details can be discussed at the next meeting.

- c. Jake asked if the path from the school to East Boston road was Town property or School property. Andy said he believed it belongs to the School. The tar is falling apart and bushes should be cut back.*

14. Adjourn - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to adjourn. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Town Clerk