



## TOWN OF VINALHAVEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### MINUTES

Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

1. **Roll Call** – Selectmen Eric Gasperini, Phillip Crossman, Jacob Thompson, and Pam Alley; and Town Manager Andrew J. Dorr. Donald Poole was absent.

*Also present: Wes Robinson, Robert Thoppin (HIF, along with their attorney William Harwood, and board member Dave Conover), the Town's attorney David Kallin, and Claudia Dengler (remotely).*

2. **Approve Agenda** – Add 6a. Response from Planning Commission – Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Jacob Thompson. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.

*Pam Alley arrived.*

3. **Old Business – HIF Tax Abatement Request** - HIF and their Board feel strongly that Maine Law allows them a Tax Exemption. Robert Thoppin and William Harwood, attorney for HIF, gave a summary of the request. The Town's attorney, Dave Kallin, also gave his thoughts on the matter and his recommendations for next steps. Eric Gasperini's preliminary thoughts are to not offer an abatement based on the fact that the HIF does not own the land on Hurricane Island. There was discussion on owning the land vs. leasing, if the HIF is considered an educational entity, and if their 40-year lease constitutes ownership. The Board will take into consideration statements from both the HIF and the Town's attorney and make a decision at a later meeting.

4. **Minutes –**

- a. **Approve the Minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting** - Motion by Phil Crossman to approve the minutes from the July 21st meeting. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.
- b. **Approve the Minutes from the July 30, 2020 Law Enforcement Workshop** - Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the minutes from the July 30th meeting. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.

5. **Approve and Sign Treasurer's Warrant #5** - Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve and sign Treasurer's Warrant #3. Second by Jake Thompson. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.

6. **Communications –**

- a. **Letter from County Commissioner** - Commissioner Pullman shared a breakdown of what each town pays to the county, and what percentage of the total paid to the County goes to each department. At last week's Law Enforcement Workshop someone asked how much of what we already pay in County taxes goes to the sheriff's budget (which includes patrol and the jail.) Commissioner Pullman was able to answer that \$142,844 of the total taxes Vinalhaven pays to Knox County goes to the law enforcement budget. It was also asked that that amount could be used for a law enforcement agency on the island,

*and the answer to that is no.*

**7. Speakers from the Floor – None**

**8. Committee and Department Reports/Appointments –**

- a. Accept and Appropriate Donations** - *Motion by Jake Thompson to accept and appropriate donations. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*
- b. Road Commissioners Report** - *The Board reviewed the Road Commissioners Report. Jake asked about the warranty on the used backhoe. Andy said that yes, the same warranty was available to the backhoe voted on at the last meeting. Andy also inquired about the labor involved to attach the additional equipment.*

**9. Old Business –**

- a. Draft Harbor Ordinance Revisions** - *There were some revisions that have not yet been approved at a special town meeting. It was decided to set a date at the next regular selectmen's meeting. Andy will check on what the statute allows for meeting requirements.*
- b. Town Garage Update** - *The engineers came out last week to look at the building and property. They shared some feedback and design modifications on the existing building. Andy also received a quote for the sand/salt shed. A direct quote from the company was considerably less than the engineers estimated cost. There was a discussion on where to place the sand/salt shed - either on the land previously purchased or closer to the Mills building currently under consideration for purchase. Andy reported that the purchase and sale agreement has been signed but contingencies have not been fulfilled currently.*

**10. New Business –**

- a. Law Enforcement Next Steps** - *Eric Gasperini said he was not interested in signing a contract with Knox County if they cannot guarantee residency on Vinalhaven. And is also opposed to Vinalhaven forming its own law enforcement agency. There was discussion on a rotating deputy schedule, having an apartment/house to share, the amount of the island stipend, and the benefit of having a deputy on the island (vs. having to rely on CG or Marine Patrol for response). There was discussion on expectations for reporting. There was discussion on having enough money to have two 40-hour patrols, or creating an island "zone" where three deputies rotate over both islands. Claudia Dengler volunteered to work with KC and use their data to help get a better picture of the issues. She asked about doing this in an official capacity through the town, and it was suggested she come speak with the Town Manager. It was suggested to come up with an 8wk contract in the interim, while working on a more permanent solution.*
- b. Arcadia Alliance, Passenger/Ambulance Vessel** - *Andy shared Martin Grimnace's proposal for a passenger/ambulance service. A letter from the EMS suggested 6pm to 6am would be the most beneficial for the islands. There was discussion on where to dock, and other uses (in the Thoroughfare to shuttle passengers on the last North Haven ferry.)*
- c. Vinalhaven Runway** - *Randy Farnham is offering to truck material for the extension. Andy is asking the Board if they want to form a committee to continue work on the extension. Kevin Waters had an estimate that the extension would cost \$7000, and Andy is hopeful that that is still a reasonable estimate. There was discussion on having a survey done. Andy met with Kerry, Ken, and Brud of PIA, who are now all part of the management team. The agreement with WAM ran out December 2019. Some proposed agreement changes are with the increased number of packages, PIA is requesting another priority for days when two vans are required;*

*routine maintenance of the general property (lights, plowing, mowing), insurance of the airstrip, capital improvements (runway extension, 10x20 shed), covered waiting area (for waiting passengers or over freight), help with delivery vehicles, annual service stipend of \$100-200,000/year. There was discussion on the cost of the runway extension and possible grants (KCRA did receive a substantial grant and it was asked if VH could be considered an extension of that project). The Board has a drafted agreement and the Board will review that for the next meeting. Andy will contact MMA (and the attorney if necessary) about the request to cover the insurance*

- 11. Report of Town Manager -** *The Board reviewed Andy's memo. There was discussion on safety concerns at Lawsons Quarry (kids in the road jumping from the cliff), signage (slow signs and painted in the road), and speed bumps/rumble strips.*

*Abutting landowners to Carver's Cemetery cleared beyond their boundary markers and are now inquiring to buy the fill pile they uncovered. There was a consensus of the Board to ask the Cemetery Committee their opinion.*

*Andy has been asked how long the political signs are allowed to stay at the Band Stand. Phil volunteered to talk to the people who posted the signs.*

*Andy has requested additional COVID resources from the State, specifically for an event tent so meetings could be held outside.*

**12. Report of Members –**

**a. Phil Crossman -**

*-Asked where ditching on Lake View falls on the schedule. Andy said it was on the list, but not sure in what order.*

*-Asked about continuing with Molly's recommendations on the Galamander and getting gravel placed underneath.*

*-Asked about painting the old fire hall. Andy had an estimate from Noah Hall but given the pandemic and a death in his crew, he wasn't able to get to it this spring. Phil recommends finding someone else.*

**b. Pam Alley -**

*-Asked about cutting some of the bushes back along the sidewalk down High Street leading to North Haven Road, and along East Main Street by Clayter Hill Road (the apple trees are encroaching on the sidewalk).*

*-The Parks Commission has some weed wackers that they aren't using and asked if Andy would contact Peter Richards to see what can be done with them.*

- 13. Adjourn –** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to adjourn. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Town Clerk*