**MINUTES**



**Town of Vinalhaven**

**Board of Selectmen**

**MONDAY, March 11th, 2019**

**6:00 PM**

**TOWN OFFICE**

1. **Roll Call -** *Selectmen Eric Gasperini, Pamela C. Alley and Phil Crossman; Town Manager Andrew J. Dorr; and Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Bunker. Donald Poole and Jacob Thompson were absent.  
     
   Also present were Gabe McPhail and Linnell Mather.*
2. **Minutes - Approve the minutes from the February 26, 2019 meeting and the February 27, 2019 Budget Workshop. -** *No quorum for the February 26, 2019 meeting minutes, postponed to next meeting.  
     
   Motion by Phil Crossman to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2019 Budget Workshop as written. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*
3. **Approve and Sign Treasurer’s Warrant #37 -** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve and sign Treasurers Warrant #37. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*
4. **Approve Agenda –** *There was a consensus of the Board to add agenda items 5a. PIA, 5b. 4th of July Committee, 5c. Life Long Community Fellow, and 7g. Cemetery Committee.**Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*
5. **Communications**
   1. **PIA -** *Kevin Waters (Penobscot Island Air) is asking to meet with the Selectmen about extending the runway 300’. Linnell Mather asked if that would include any land across the street. It is Andy’s understanding that this would be an extension of the far end of the runway. The Selectmen would like to invite Kevin to attend the March 25, 2019 meeting.*
   2. **4th of July Committee -** *The Board received a letter from the 4th of July Committee/ Fireworks Committee asking the Board to budget $7,500.00 to a Fireworks Reserve for a future fireworks show. The estimated total cost is $15,000.00 for a complete show. The Board is in favor of creating a reserve fund, but would like to receive updates/ communications from the committee - i.e.: appoint a chair/co-chair, minutes from meetings, etc. (more in Budget discussions)*
   3. **Life Long Community Fellow -** *The Aging in Place committee has found a grant opportunity to have a fellow help them. At this time, they are only asking for support from the Selectmen.  
      Motion by Eric Gasperini to support the Aging in Place Committee and to provide a letter of support if they request one. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*
6. **Speakers from the Floor -** *None*
7. **Committee and Department Reports/Appointments**
   1. **Approve and Appropriate Donations -** *Motion by Phil Crossman to approve and appropriate donations. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*
   2. **Ambulance Report -** *The Board reviewed Pat Lundholm’s last report! She is requesting no recognition party. Linnell Mather suggested purchasing something for the ambulance in her honor, or some sort of scholarship for EMT training and the Board agreed that was a great idea.*
   3. **Knox County Sheriff’s Office -** *The Board reviewed the Sheriff’s report. They agreed the numbers were good, but there are no explanations (if action was taken on a call). Deputy Lander’s will be away for a month to fill his Reserves requirements, but Andy has stressed to Knox that we will still require the additional coverage the North Haven deputy was providing. It is necessary to have a deputy on, at least, one of the islands at all times.*
   4. **Road Commissioner -** *The Board discussed concerns about having the Public Works men having to break the ice off the Thoroughfare float. Andy has encouraged them to wear a life vest, or at take a life ring with them.*

*There was discussion on replacing the solid surface of the float with a metal grid surface. It was suggested to talk to Brown’s Boatyard about possible solutions. (more in Budget discussion.)*

* 1. **Transfer Station -** *The Board reviewed the Transfer Station data and the EcoMaine report.*
  2. **Wastewater Department -** **Certificate of Commitment of Sewer User Rates -** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve and sign the Certificate of Commitment of Sewer User Rates. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried. Certificate was passed for signatures.*
  3. **Cemetery Committee -** *The Board reviewed Eric Davis’ report for the last Cemetery Committee meeting.*

1. **Old Business -** *None*
2. **New Business -** 
   1. **2017 Tax Foreclosures -** *There are 5 properties the Board reviewed. One land owner has contacted the Town and asked about a repayment plan. The advice from the lawyer is not to do a plan with more than 5 payments. Three properties are owned by one person. They have not been amenable when being approached in person, and the Town has sent multiple notices. The Board asked Andy to send one more notice asking if a payment plan agreement could be worked out. The 5th property has a conservation easement and will require a different process.*
   2. **Town Report Dedication & Memoriam -** *Phil asked that this be tabled until the next meeting.*
   3. **Budget Workshop**
      1. **Public Works -** *Items requested this year by the Public Works Crew are a hotbox so they can warm the patch before use, helping it to adhere to the road surface. Also a loader scale, so they’ll know how much they are loading each truck with. Wet loads weigh more and therefore have damaged the trucks.  
           
         There was discussion on the amount of salt/sand to budget for, and also the quality of the material received this year (sharp stones causing flat tires). There was a consensus to budget for three barge loads, and mix with salt 5:1 (which is the current mix ration).   
           
         Motion by Eric Gasperini to budget for 1100 yards of sand. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried. Andy will get a figure on this when he puts in all the numbers.  
           
         There was discussion on rates for plow drivers and shovelers. Andy presented proposed rates for laborers through to Class A licensed drivers:*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reg/PT/Intermittent | $12.50 | .25 raise per year | top out at $15/hr |
| Class C Driver/Laborer | $13.50 | .25 raise per year | top out at $15/hr |
| Class B Driver/Laborer | $16.00 | .50 raise per year | top out at $20/hr |
| Class A Driver/Laborer | $20.00 | .50 raise per year | top out at $25/hr |

*Motion by Pam Alley to approve the proposed pay scale for licensed C, B, or A drivers and laborers. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*

* + 1. **Transfer Station -** *There was discussion on budgeting for ash treatment and/or removal. There could be a possibility that the ash could be used as filler between a new retaining wall and the current wall, but details are unknown at this time.   
         
       Asking for money to shingle one side of the roof and repairs to the garage door.   
         
       Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the Transfer Station budget at $434,120.00. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*
    2. **Capital Projects -** *There was discussion on whether to budget more now for future projects (have the $ available) or get a loan when the project is set (paving, sidewalks, etc.). There was discussion on sidewalks and possibly applying for the Safe Routes to School grant.  
         
       Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the Capital Projects Budget at $392,500.00. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.   
         
       The Board revisited discussion re: the letter from the Fireworks Committee. Motion by Eric Gasperini to appropriate $7500.00 to a Fireworks Reserve Fund. No Second. Motion withdrawn. Motion by Phil Crossman to appropriate $3000.00 to a Fireworks Reserve Fund. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.  
         
       Discussion moved to Historic Sites and the upcoming expense of repairing the Galamander. Motion by Eric Gasperini to appropriate $40,000.00 to Historic Sites. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.  
         
       Motion by Eric Gasperini to reduce the amount appropriated for a new police cruiser from $10,000.00 to $5,000.00. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.  
         
       The Board revisited discussion re: decking on the Thoroughfare float - building a whole new float vs. replacing the decking. The previous quote from Chris Kolofsky (2 years ago) estimated the cost of a whole new float with grid top at $16,000.00. Historically there has been a “gentlemen’s agreement” with North Haven for them to pay 30% of costs associated with the float. Andy will contact the new North Haven Town Manager.  
         
       With these discussions the previous vote for approving the Capital Projects budget was rescinded and amended. Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the Capital Projects budget at $420,500.00. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*
    3. **Community Development Planning -** *There was discussion on finding funding to challenge the flood plain zoning. Andy estimates it will be between $10,000-15,000.   
       Motion by Phil Crossman to appropriate $15,000 for flood plain zoning analysis. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.  
         
       There was discussion on a cost/benefit analysis for the SLR study. There was a consensus to communicate with the Committee and see what they recommend.   
         
       Andy asked if the Board would approve $25,000.00 for a Broadband Feasibility Study. Motion by Eric Gasperini to appropriate $25,000.00 for a Broadband Feasibility Study. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*

1. **Report of Town Manager -** *The Waste Watchers Committee is discussing more composting options and working on a pilot program so they will be able to come to the Board with better data. The ultimate goal is to increase diversion and decrease waste.   
     
   There is an intern interested in working this summer with the SLR committee, but they were unable to get funding through the Margaret Chase Smith scholarship (due to being a new student). Andy advised they look into other scholarships through MMA.  
     
   Gabe McPhail asked if the Board was ok with her applying for a grant to help with the Downtown Master Plan. All in favor.  
     
   Down East Magazine emailed Andy asking to include VH Quarries in their Scavenger Hunt. It was suggested they talk with the Parks Commission. There was discussion on safety of encouraging people to come to the quarries, and the Board was in agreement that as long as it was noted that there was no life guard on duty and “swim at your own risk,” they would be amenable to the quarries being included in the magazine.   
     
   The Ferry Advisory Board is meeting on Thursday (3/14/19). They will be discussing a new rate structure due to Islesboro’s lawsuit over the current rate structure.*
2. **Report of Members -** *Eric Gasperini spoke with the North Haven Town Manager and they had 80 in attendance at their town meeting. Eric suggested considering changing our town meeting from June to March.  
     
   Pam Alley liked having the tables set up in the Cafeteria for committees at town meeting last year. It gives the committees a good opportunity to discuss what they have been working on all year and encourages people to come to the town meeting.*
3. **Adjourn -** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 3/0/0. Motion carried.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Town Clerk*