

MINUTES

TOWN OF VINALHAVEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, August 23rd, 2016

6:00 PM

TOWN OFFICE

1. **ROLL CALL** – *Selectmen Eric Gasperini, Phillip Crossman and Emily B. Lane; Town Manager Andrew J. Dorr; and Town Clerk Darlene M. York. Pamela C. Alley and Brandon Osgood were absent.*

Also present were Elin Elisofon, Daniel Bickford, Brad Horn, Maria Berman, Burt Porter, Steve Zoloth, Sophie Starr, Delwyn Webster, Katie Hooper, Wanatha Garner, Kevin Moore and Niall Conlan.

2. **MINUTES** – **Approve the minutes from the August 8th, 2016 Meeting** - *Motion by Phil Crossman to approve the minutes from the August 8th, 2016 Meeting. Second by Emily Lane. Realized no quorum was present. Motion was withdrawn.*

Motion by Emily Lane to table until a quorum was present. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.

3. **APPROVE AND SIGN TREASURER’S WARRANTS #8** - *Motion by Emily Lane to approve and sign Treasurer’s Warrants #8. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.*
4. **APPROVE AGENDA** – *There was a consensus of the Board to add agenda items 5b. HGTV “Island Life” Filming; 7d. Librarian’s Report; and 7e. Wastewater Department – Certificate of Commitment of Sewer User Rates. Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Emily Lane. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.*

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. **MeDOT - MSFS Response** – *A letter was received in response to the Board’s letter to the MSFS. Phil Crossman stated he didn’t like it and thought that it begged for a response. Postponed to the next meeting.*
- b. **HGTV “Island Life” Filming** – *Left Right LLC is asking for local permits or sign offs to film at Booths Quarry and Lawson’s Quarry in September. Andrew Dorr stated he is not comfortable without having MMA review it and recommended postponing. There was a consensus of the Board to wait and see what MMA has to say.*

6. **SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR** – *Burt Porter stated he was a property owner on Crockett’s River Road and was here to express concern for work being done on the road. He submitted a letter signed by thirteen property owners. He is not suggesting that road maintenance is not necessary, just*

the scale of improvements and the pace. He questioned the blasting and asked what redress property owners with wells near the road would have should their water quality be affected.

Phil Crossman asked what scope of the work troubles you? Kurt stated the width of the road and the blasting in his opinion was unnecessary. We don't need a 2 lane road.

Emily Lane stated there are lots of problems with drainage and many times in the winter the road is impassable for those that live there year round. We are just trying to make it safe.

Eric Gasperini stated we have previously done quick work but are now trying to do proper ditching and road work, while trying to save tax dollars now and in the future.

Del Webster stated that he objected to the scope of the work. Don't need to turn a country lane into a boulevard. He also objects to the blasting. 80% of road maintenance is to ditch, ditch, ditch and crown. Need to grade from the outside into the center. There are yards of material on the sides of the Crockett's River Road that has been plowed into the ditches. Now new ditches are being created beyond the original. Grade what we got, ditch it and keep it narrow.

Eric Gasperini stated for years property owns have asked us to do something and now we are.

Wanatha Garner stated the entrance is extra wide partially because drivers have had to go a full car length to the side to avoid a culvert. The road is not sound for the fourteen property owners and caretakers. When you say the road is okay, it's not. We have had two incredibly dry summers. The road needs ditches and you need to put culverts in or get rid of the rock. Right now Middle Mountain drains onto the road.

Burt Porter stated he recognized that there needs to be ditching and some work but was worried about the environmental impact on these ditches. They have been left in such a manner that the ditch does not drain and is cause for concern. Dan Bickford stated that work was started but that it is not finished. The crew got off on another job and hasn't gotten back to that area.

Maria Berman stated there is a need for a safe and passable road but is anxious on the lack of clarity. Some areas of the road are wider and other areas are much narrower. Suggested spraying a center line and measuring off and spraying again to maintain a 14 foot road with adequate ditching. It is alarming to see the amount of stray paint on ledges and suggested moving the road over 2 feet instead of blasting.

Steve Zoloth stated that he seconds the comments made by everyone. He would like to see the quality of the road maintained. There are 100 + year old cedar trees that demand careful thought and planning. He agrees the road needs ditching but hopes it can be done in an environmentally friendly manner. No specific plans have been communicated.

Brad Horn recommended having a survey and drawings done to help to understand the road.

Dan Bickford stated surveys could be done but it becomes a question on the available budget.

Andy Dorr stated this project was on the list of goals for the Board of Selectmen. There are some ledges that need to be removed and some areas that we could work around. It becomes a question if the Town wants to pay to have surveys done.

Emily Lane asked what Maine Drilling & Blasting's plan was. Andy stated that we identify what we want removed and they remove it. They were out and estimated that it will take 15 days to do the work.

Katie Hooper stated she was alarmed as what has been done so far looks so horrific. Hard to imagine that there will be anything pleasant to look at at the end of the day.

Del Webster stated any builder wants a plan or design to go from and we need a plan for this road. Also need to consider that this is a resource protection area and the MeDEP requires a permit to do anything in that area.

Phil Crossman stated it was reasonable to expect a more thoughtful approach.

Maria Berman stated she would like a clarified scope of the 15 days of blasting and what the blasting costs were. A survey may actually save money.

Del Webster asked Andy what the costs of blasting were.

Elin Elisofon stated there are several pullovers right off the road. If there are big ditches how are we supposed to get to the property? It was stated culverts would be installed. She also questioned about several hand dug wells that were very close to the road. In her lifetime the road keeps getting wider and wider.

It was stated that Mills Excavation has equipment that could break up the road instead of blasting. Dan Bickford stated that we priced out using them but that it was cheaper to blast.

Emily Lane suggested there be some kind of compromise and recommended all parties get together on site, getting input from Andy, Dan, and the road crew to somehow meet in the middle without over spending. Work needs to be done before frost.

Wanatha Garner stated she thought painting would be helpful. Something needs to be done as in the winter if someone is stuck or hurt her phone is the closest at over 2 miles away.

Phil Crossman made a motion to undertake producing some sort of design, not necessarily a survey and to involve the neighbors in the process to determine what needs to be done with the road. Second by Emily Lane. Vote 3-0-0.

It was stated that we need to act quickly as ledge that has been dug up needs to be addressed before winter.

Del Webster stated he recommends using Sylvia Lacey's plan that was emailed.

It was asked if the neighbors would please be in contact with Andy. Members of the Board will also try to attend.

Eric Gasperini thanked everyone for attending.

Del Webster stated he asked a month ago about purchasing granite and other materials. He is still interested. Phil Crossman stated they would look into after Labor Day.

7. COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS

- a. Ambulance Report** – Motion by Emily Lane to approve the purchase of the Carbon Monoxide Monitors. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.

- b. Road Commissioner's Report** – *Road Commissioner's reports were reviewed. As indicated they started ditching on Crockett's River Road but came to a halt at the requests of the owners. They have also been working on Zeke's Point Road. The removal of ledge will create a ditch line that will be very effective. Prescott to look at culverts to see if poly liners could be installed to help increase their life expectancy. Hope to have the culvert inventory for budget time. It was stated that the patching done on the shoulders looks great.*
- c. Transfer Station Report** – *Transfer Station analysis of tonnage and revenues was reviewed. The burn pile was finally burned and the fire department was not called out. Andy has recommended moving the ash pile back and making a more visible place to put the burn pile. Del Webster stated there was toxic smoke and a fiberglass boat that disappeared. There was a consensus of the Board to review the Landfill Ordinance and the processes this fall.*
- d. Librarian's Report** – *Librarian's Report was reviewed.*
- e. Wastewater Department – Certificate of Commitment of Sewer User Rates** – *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve and sign the Wastewater Department Certificate of Commitment of Sewer User Rates. Second by Emily Lane. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried. Certificate was passed for signatures.*

8. OLD BUSINESS – *None*

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Set date for Public Hearing – General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D 2016-2017** – *Motion by Eric Gasperini to set the date for the Public Hearing on General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D for 2016-2017 for 6:00 PM on September 6th, 2016 with the Board of Selectmen's Meeting immediately following. Second by Emily Lane. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.*
- b. West Main Street Sidewalk Project Bid Summary** – *Landmark has provided a summary of the 3 bids received (\$279,950; \$445,000; and Not provided). Emily Lane recommended backing off and thinking about the project. It was stated that this is a complicated project and it would wipe out the reserve. Motion by Emily Lane that we do not accept any bids at this time. Second by Eric Gasperini. Phil Crossman asked if we would tabling until the next meeting. It was stated no, but that we can rebid the project. Vote 2-1-0 – Phil Crossman voting no. Motion passed. It was stated that this is a huge project and will be a lot of money therefor we really need to give this more thought.*

10. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER – *Two more dumpsters of metal have been transported off the island and we are making headway on the pile. We are only paying for the boat ticket.*

There will be a meeting here at the Town Office tomorrow at 7:00 PM on the feasibility of the broadband project.

The "Island Speed Space" is open downtown. We are waiting on the 50mb service. Currently only 25mb is being delivered and will have to trouble shoot to see why the 50mb is not being delivered.

School zone signs were reviewed. Motion by Eric Gasperini to go with the \$5,500 option. Second by Emily Lane. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.

Deborah Spring was tested again after bleaching and came back still high. Dana Blackington has suggested having it cleaned out and allowing it to sit for a few days then placing stone in the bottom. The liability is on Dana. It was suggested that he post it.

Motion by Eric Gasperini to authorize the Town Manager to sign on behalf of the town the agreement with Ransom Engineering at his discretion. Second by Emily Lane. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.

Calendar was reviewed.

11. REPORT OF MEMBERS – *Phil Crossman asked if the Sea-Level Rise Committee was full.*

12. ADJOURN – *Motion by Emily Lane to adjourn at 7:43 PM. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.*

Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting: Tuesday, September 6th, 2016 immediately following Public Hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene M. York, Town Clerk