

Regular Selectboard Meeting
4 September 2024
6:00 PM
Town Office at Isle La Motte School and via Zoom

In Attendance: Peter Brzozowy, Mary-Catherine Graziano, Cary Sandvig, Pat Treckman, Joe Deller, Selby Turner, John Yartz, Bruce Noble, Allen Hall, Bruce Noble, Brenda Luciano, Esquire, Michael Frett (*The Islander*), Selby Turner, Barbara Callahan, Dale Garvey (via Zoom), Sylvia Jensen (via Zoom)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Selectboard Chair Peter Brzozowy. Pat Treckman requested that the audience move to the front of the room in the event they wish to speak.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda for this meeting. It was proposed that the Selectboard should enter an Executive Session upon reaching the bid reviews for snow removal as permitted by statute. A motion to hold the Executive Session for snow removal bid reviews was made by Peter Brzozowy, seconded by Mary-Catherine Graziano, all in favor.
3. **Administration**
 - *Approve Selectboard Meeting Minutes from 8/21* - A motion to approve the Regular Meeting meetings was made by Pat Treckman, seconded by Mary-Catherine Graziano, all in favor.
 - *Board of Listers - Errors & Omissions, Reassessment Status* - There were no updates for this meeting. A discussion of the reassessment will be added to the next meeting agenda.
 - *Warrants for payroll & payables* -
 - 4 September 2024 - Payables in the amount of \$5,876.76. A motion to approve was made by Pat Treckman, seconded by Mary-Catherine Graziano, all in favor.
 - 27 August 2024 - Payroll in the amount of \$3,394.23. A motion to approve was made by Pat Treckman, seconded by Mary-Catherine Graziano, all in favor.
 - 27 August 2024 - Payroll Transfer for the Internal Revenue Service and Vermont Department of Taxes in the amount of \$709.86. A motion to approve was made by Pat Treckman, seconded by Mary-Catherine Graziano, all in favor.
 - 26 August 2024 - Payables in the amount of \$2,312.25; ratification of Peter Brzozowy's signature. A motion to ratify Peter Brzozowy's signature was made by Pat Treckman, seconded by Mary-Catherine Graziano, all in favor.
 - *Park Rental - review request by State Representative Josie Leavitt* - Representative Leavitt has requested the use of Veterans Park for a candidate meet and greet on Saturday, September 28th, 2024 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. The Selectboard provided conditional approval for the use of the park, as the request was directed to their attention, but the Recreation Department chairs will be asked for their approval after checking the park schedule. Motion to conditionally approve the park use request was made by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor.
4. **Contracts/Grants/Bids**
 - *West Shore Road Ditching & Culvert Project - review bids, award contract* - There were no bids received for the work which is due to be completed by the end of September. Discussion was held regarding options for completing part of the work and receiving partial grant support, as there is one section of the culvert which requires immediate attention due to risk of collapse. But due to the possibility of exposure with the grant and proof of completion, the culvert can be addressed with funds in the 2024 budget in the event that the work cannot be completed by the end of September. Joe Deller will purchase culverts, to be supported by Bruce Noble in the event there is pushback on the delivery, and John Yartz agreed to complete the work and provide the stone, as the smaller scope of work will work with his schedule. The Selectboard will also make calls to determine if there are any contractors that may be able to complete the balance of the work from the original scope.
 - *IT Managed Services - review of bids, possible award* - One bid was received from Rural Solutions, and the pricing and scope was in line with the initial bid made several months ago. The start date can be immediate, and it was decided to start the service as soon as possible. A motion was made to move forward with the proposal by Mary-Catherine Graziano, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor. Cary Sandvig will provide the electronic approval sent via email, and will call the vendor to confirm. Peter Brzozowy requested that Rural Solutions immediately begin work on implementing the .GOV platform in order to provide a more secure email server.

5. Executive Session

- *Pre-Session Discussions* - Prior to the session, one bidder, Bruce Noble, provided an introduction to the board. As well, Brenda Luciano, Esquire, Bruce Noble's attorney, inquired regarding the upcoming executive session and how information would be communicated following the proceedings, and the Board confirmed that the ultimate decision would be made in a public forum. Allen Hall was present and voiced his support for John Yartz and his bid for snow removal. Motion to enter the executive session at 6:41 PM was made by Mary-Catherine Graziano, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor.
- *Snow Removal - bid discussion summary* - Peter Brzozowy ended the session at 7:35 PM and thanked the attendees for their patience. Mr. Brzozowy explained that the subject discussed in executive session was only the snow removal contract bids that the Selectboard received. He indicated that all bids were reviewed carefully in accordance with the complex specifications which were used as the criteria for consideration. An overview of the session was provided, noting that cost, relative experience, equipment availability, and contingency planning were all factors in the decision. The award was made to Nobles Construction for a cost of \$168,000 annually for a total of \$504,000. All contractors were thanked, as was John Yartz for his years of service. The details of the other bids would not be shared at this time, as they were discussed in an executive session and the competitive information would not be fair to share with the public.

6. Roadways

- *Road Commissioner report* - Via Peter Brzozowy, the Road Commissioner advised that the storm debris on Bruley Road had been cleared following the repair of the power lines in the area. Pat Treckman advised that a bi-annual FHWA-536 Local Highway Finance Reporting survey needs to be completed by the Road Commissioner and Treasurer by the end of the year; this will be added to the next agenda to ensure completion.

7. Town Business

- *ARPA Funding* - A discussion was held regarding the statement that will be made surrounding the reserve fund language for the use of the remaining ARPA funds and the level of specificity to ensure the funds are only used for those identified purposes; this action will need to be voted on by the public. It was clarified, that regardless of whether the public votes for or against the use of the funds, the funds will remain as surplus in the general account until a time when the public approves their use. In light of the request by the Isle La Motte Community Organization to earmark up to \$12,500 of the surplus funds for use towards a pavilion for Veterans Park, a question which will be put forth to residents in the November election, the Board will conduct additional research regarding the binding nature of the petition wording of the article regarding these funds and continue to craft the statement. Timing of finalizing the article and posting for public review is also pending. Mary-Catherine Graziano motioned to contact the attorney regarding the binding nature of the petition, seconded by Joe Deller, all in favor. Peter Brzozowy will contact the attorney. Additional discussion was held regarding the timing and funding of the pavilion project, as well as how the question will be presented to residents in order for all to understand the cost and milestones to be achieved in order for the project to ultimately move forward. Cary Sandvig volunteered to work with Peter Brzozowy to craft a final ARPA Funding statement once the attorney's response is provided, and the language will be reviewed at the next Selectboard meeting.
- *Selectboard Oversight - discuss oversight roles for Town business* - The Selectboard made additional changes to the matrix, which will ultimately have a public facing and internal versions. A discussion was held regarding increasing communication with the School Board regarding concerns over the continuing increase in taxes, which Sylvia Jensen noted is due to the cost of out-of-district tuition which is calculated by the common level of appraisal. All agreed that the calculation is flawed, and pressure needs to be applied.
- *Dog Ordinance - review final comments, approve ordinance for public review period* - Mary-Catherine Graziano indicated that some of the fee changes should be reviewed by the Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) for approval; Peter Brzozowy will forward this language for review. One additional revision will be completed and circulated for review.
- *November Election Ballot Question Petition Review - review documentation for recreation park pavilion question to be added to ballot* - As noted previously, the attorney is being contacted regarding the binding nature of the petition, should it be passed by the public. Sylvia Jensen noted that there is a timeline for the Selectboard to act on this petition in order for it to be properly warned for voting in November, noting the delivery of absentee ballots. Peter Brzozowy will ensure that the Town Clerk has the final information as soon as possible in order for the questions to be included in the absentee ballots. Mary-Catherine Graziano noted that the inclusion of the petition on the ballot was binding.

8. **Other Business:** There was no other business to be discussed at this meeting.
9. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM, motioned by Peter Brzozowy, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted on 8 September 2024 -
Andrea Carbone

Peter Brzozowy, *Chair*

Mary-Catherine Graziano

Cary Sandvig

Joe Deller

Pat Treckman
