

**Minutes**  
**Town of Vermont Board Meeting**  
**January 8, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. – 4017 County Road JJ**

**Call to Order and Certification of Notice Posting**

Called to order by Karen Carlock at 7:00 p.m. Agenda was posted on the town website, the door of Town Hall, emailed to the online subscribers and a meeting notice was published in the Mount Horeb Mail and the Star News.

Present: Todd Culliton, John Hallick, Karen Carlock (Chair), Jenna Schmidt (Treasurer), Chris Christian (Clerk), Scott Moe and Doug Meier

**Approval of Agenda**

Todd moved to approve the agenda, John seconded and motion approved 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Todd moved to approve December minutes, Karen seconded and motion approved 5-0.

**Chairman's Report and Acknowledgments**

Karen reported that the Road Committee met this morning for a tour of four town turnarounds and discussed options. David Stanfield sent a draft ordinance relating to public utilities; Karen let him know that Plan Commission will look over it but based on past experience and advice, we know that it will likely not be enforceable.

**Citizens' Input**

Eitan Zohar brought cookies for everyone. He reported that he really enjoys living in Vermont.

**Treasurer's Report**

Jenna reported on tax collection, which is the largest activity for the month. Licenses and permits slightly above budget due to building permits and miscellaneous revenue above budget due to interest income and assessment searches. She indicated that we

have not received the amounts owed to the school districts yet. John moved to approve Treasurer's Report, Karen seconded, and motion passed 5-0.

### **Clerk's Report**

No new Vermont residents in December. There will be a primary on February 20. Two candidates have submitted candidacy forms for Town Board seats 2 and 4 for election in April (only one candidate per open position). Chris spoke with Black Earth Fire Department and we will be invoiced for the truck after meeting on Thursday, but check is ready to go. Karen moved to approve Clerk's Report, Todd seconded, and motion passed 5-0.

### **Payment of Bills**

Doug asked about some shop purchases for supplies; Jack explained the purchases. Doug inquired about two checks to Diane Anderson in similar amounts; it was determined that they were duplicate checks and one was voided. Doug made a motion to approve payment of the bills, Karen seconded and motion passed 5-0.

### **Vermont Citizens ATC Committee Update**

Michael McDermott was not present. Karen indicated there hasn't been much forward progress. She talked about the news segment that featured Mt. Horeb and possible effects on student health. Eitan Zohar suggested that we become more difficult and engage in environmental studies that are very long and expensive. John Hallick suggested that we identify the key stakeholders and keep pressing them. Karen will talk to the committee and see if environmental impact study will be done by next month.

### **Patrolman, Fire District, EMS and Town Liaison Reports**

Jack reported the fuel tank has been gelling up, which happens when temperature goes under 10 degrees. The International gave him difficulty during the two storms. The salt shed has two feet of crusted salt that he has been breaking up.

Black Earth Fire District meeting will be on Thursday, with sinking fund on agenda. There will be a meeting on Wednesday regarding Black Earth joining Mazomanie, which has the potential to save money.

John has had numerous meetings with Mount Horeb Fire Department. Payments towards \$404,000 start in 2019. One of the towns asked about paying off over 20 years rather than 40. We do have the option to change our payment schedule. We might be able to save quite a bit of money if we cut ten years off the payment schedule. John

asked about what happens to the building and he found out the building will be assessed at \$400,000-\$600,000 and will be sold at auction once vacated. An auction will eliminate the cost of the broker and the cost of the auction is the responsibility of the buyer. The money will be distributed back to the townships, with our portion being about 4.5%. John questioned the need for such an expensive new building, saying that the quality of service is not likely to increase. Doug indicated that call volume is up, but actual transports are down.

John asked Jenna to prepare a fire department comparison including a normalization of the cost down to a mill rate so we could compare the cost of the Mt. Horeb Fire Department vs. the Black Earth combined with EMS One. Jenna presented a comparison of the budgets of each. She used assessed values to calculate the mill rate, which for Mt. Horeb is .00716 and Black Earth is .00578. She used a \$200,000 property as an example. For Mt. Horeb it costs \$28 more than Black Earth for a \$200,000 property. Loan repayment of \$16,972 is the annual amount added to the levy, which changes Mt. Horeb's mill rate to .00102 which for a \$200,000 property would cost \$204.78 (vs. \$115 for Black Earth).

On Thursday there will be a District One meeting and Scott said they will begin talking about a new ambulance.

### **Zoning Change Petition for Carla and James Raatz at 9854 Greenwald Road**

Doug reported that approval was recommended by PC for change to A-2 zoning to build a shed for a house that they hope to build; A-2 allows the shed to be built before the house. Karen made a motion to approve zoning change for James and Carla Raatz to A-2 and John seconded, with motion passing 5-0.

### **Financial Policy Update to Accommodate Allegiant Billing**

Allegiant Oil gives a not insignificant discount if we pay within seven days. Todd moved that we change the wording of Section 4 of the Town of Vermont Purchasing Policy to allow early payment of vendors that offer a discount for prompt payment with prior board notification if it is a budgeted item. Karen seconded and motion passed 5-0. Doug asked Jack to set a meter to make sure what we pay for is what we use.

### **Holding Tank Refund Process**

John suggested we return \$3,600 worth of holding tank deposits, absorb the rest, and then deal with other requests for refund on a case by case basis. Karen motioned that we refund holding tank deposits to the following or their assigned where we can trace the documentation: Tyrol Basin Corporation for \$2,000, Marc Robertson for \$100, Dybdahl, Living Trust for \$500, Thomas Hefty for \$500, and Gordon Stevenson for

\$500. John seconded, and motion passed 5-0. Karen made a motion to authorize Chris and Jenna to get the checks out in a timely manner, waiting for Jack to speak to Gordon Stevenson. Todd seconded and motion passed 5-0.

### **Fire Department Comparison and Financial Planning**

This was covered in previous discussion.

### **Automatic Door Opener for Back Entry**

Doug has researched automatic door openers and none have great ratings but wireless are easier to install and they run \$1,000 to \$1,200. We discussed the problem with our railing not being 12 inches from the door; we were written up about four years ago and talked again two years ago but problem has not been solved. Jack also said that a canopy would ideally be placed above to prevent snow and ice from falling and freezing and burning out the motor of the electric door opener. Karen moved that we purchase and install an electric accessibility door opener not to exceed \$1,500 and Todd seconded with motion passing 5-0. Doug and Jack will work together on this. We will revisit the other issues.

### **Woods Mower replacement final decision**

The cost of the woods mower has gone up slightly from 2017 to 2018. Scott questioned whether we need to replace; Jack detailed all the problems with the aircraft tires wearing out and the gearbox needing repair, plus the trade-in value going down the longer we wait. Todd moved that we purchase a new woods mower and allocate \$1000 per year for purchase of a new one, Karen seconded, and motion passed 5-0.

### **Agenda Items for February Meeting**

ADA Railing Requirement  
Meeting with Brian Standing-topics of discussion

### **Adjournment**

John moved to adjourn and Todd seconded, with motion being approved 5-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.