

Brookfield Selectboard Meeting

October 23, 2023

Held at Town Clerk's Office
Brookfield, VT

THOSE PRESENT: John Benson, Chair; Curtis Koren, Keith Sprague, Stuart Edson, Members; Carol Monness, Town Clerk; and Betty Lord, Selectboard member and acting secretary

RESIDENTS ALSO ATTENDING: Dove Cogan, Kris Cameron, Bill Cameron, Jason Trask, Kathy Kinter, Devon Croply, Todd and Cindy Lyford, and Jack Zebora (All residents living on Eagle Peak Road), and Mike Fiorillo, Zoning Administrator

A: Call to Order

The Chair, John Benson, call the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

B Adjustments to the Agenda: Eagle Peak Road, Norwich University report and Mr. Mike Fiorillo were moved to Public Comments.

C: Public Comments

1. An email was read from P. Fenning requesting that the bridge on Gilbert Road be upgraded as the gas truck is unable to cross it to deliver fuel. The bridge is on the agenda to be considered by FEMA for an upgrade.
2. A letter was previously sent to the selectboard members from Kathy Kinter and Larry Thompson with question to be considered by the selectboard.
 - a. One concern: if work would be done on Eagle Peak before winter set in. Keith Sprague, Road Commissioner, stated that a topcoat would be added to the road. He will check with Mr. Higgins, Road Forman, to see if the culvert can be cleaned out.
 - b. Ms. Kinter also asked if any plans were being made regarding climate change. Mr. Benson stated that TRORC did a study, and the State of Vermont provided some funding to do long-term upgrading work of the roads; however, with the storm of July 10th all of that work has been put on hold. During the flood some roads and culverts were completely washed away.

c. Mr. Sprague stated that last year plowing was done by only two road crew members and the Town was unable to find another driver. A third member has been hired and it is expected that Eagle Peak Road will be plowed this year in a more satisfactory manner.

3. Eagle Peak Road, Norwich University Civil Engineering, Kris Cameron (Moved from Other Proper Business) Ms. Cameron had previously sent their findings to the Board. Mr. Benson said the Board supported the conclusion of the study. She stated Norwich Engineering class would be willing to come out and do studies for other areas of the Town. The next round of activity would be contacting Rita at TRORC so the findings can be submitted for grants from VTrans and FEMA.

D. Payroll and AP Warrants

Ms. Lord made a motion to accept the AP warrants in the total amount of \$68,548.10 with

the highest amount of \$31,695 payable to Gaffetti Grading. Mr. Edson seconded the

motion which carried unanimously. 5-0-0.

Mike Fiorillo-(Moved forward from Old Business) Mr. Fiorillo reported that on May 1st he was notified that non-permitted commercial activity was taking place on Twin Pond Road. Even though the owner agreed to take down a website advertising space for events and an Air B&B, the website is still up and there are reports of continued activity on the property. When Mr. Fiorillo talked with the landowner stating that commercial activity could not take place without a permit, he was told, "Well, maybe I will do it anyway."

After much discussion, the Board agreed to the following: A Certified letter will be sent to the landowner explaining that two weeks are being given for the owner to contact the Board of Adjustments for a zoning permit to allow a commercial operation on the property. It is the desire of the Board that this action will be taken to avoid further action against the landowner.

E. Highway: Mr. Sprague gave the following report: The new hire, Austin Wheatley, has completed his class work, received his permit and will have his CDL license on November 1st. ... The new hats that were ordered for the Road Crew

have been received and were given to the men to thank them for their outstanding work during the night of the July 10 flood. ...Mr. Sprague and Mr. Higgins met with Rob Townsend to discuss Montgomery Road which is classified as a Class 3 to the untraveled part of the road. ...Mr. Townsend was asked to provide a price for researching a plot of land behind the cemetery on Route 14 to ascertain if the property belongs to the town or if it belongs to Sprague Farm. If Sprague Farm owns the land, what would the cost be to do the lot line and adjust the deed to turn the property over to the Town. ...Reviews for two of the Town road crew will be due before the end of the year. ...Grading is being done before winter sets in. The process is slow as two trucks are down and being repaired. Lettering of "Town of Brookfield" has been placed on the new one-ton truck. ...Mr. Higgins has requested the rental of a 40 ft. storage unit for \$3,600 to be used to keep equipment out of the weather until the shed is built. ...A request was made by a resident that the Selectboard purchase a set of new tires as he had a flat tire which was caused by a rock on the road. Mr. Benson pointed out there is a Vermont Statute that states that Towns are not responsible for flat tires caused by rocks on the gravel roads. ... Mr. Sprague was asked to be given a price per yard cost for sand from W. B. Rogers.

Mr. Benson read a note from Don and Allison Hooper thanking the Town and the road crew for the awesome job they did on East Hill and Rowley Road allowing them to leave their home after the July flood.

F. New Business: Mr. Benson reported a proposal for an audit had been received from Sullivan and Powers. He noted the cost for the proposal of \$23,000 is \$3,000 more than budgeted. Mr. Edson made a motion that we accept the proposed audit and in lieu of there being a place to sign for the acceptance, the minutes will verify the Board's acceptance for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously. 5-0-0. Mr. Benson requested that Ms. Monness ask Sullivan & Powers for a contract and a date on which they plan to begin the audit.

G. Old Business: Mike Fiorillo: See Public Comments above.

H. Minutes of October 9 and October 16: Mr. Sprague made a motion to accept the minutes of October 9 as presented and October 16 as corrected. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. (Oct. 9, 5-0-0, and Oct

16, 4-0-0 with Ms. Lord abstaining as she was acting secretary who took the minutes.)

Other Business: November 20th has been set as the date for reclassification of TH45. A Certified Letter will be sent to each of the four landowners involved with notification of the site visit to be held on the road to ascertain the physical condition of the road, with the hearing to be held at the Town Clerk's Office immediately following the site visit when the Board will go into deliberate session on the classification. The decision will be recorded in the Town land records for roads. The hearing must be legally warned fifteen days prior to the site visit and deliberate session and must be posted in *The Herald*.

Mr. Benson reminded the Board that November 11 will mark sixty days for the deadline for all FEMA information and documentation to be ready for filing.

Mr. Benson made a motion to approve a permit for use of the Old Town Hall for family event. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. 5-0-0.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Sprague made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty T Lord
Selectboard Member and Acting Secretary