

Town of Danville
Special Selectboard Minutes
August 2, 2022
Danville Town Hall (6:30 pm)

Board Members Present: Ken Linsley, Janice Ouellette, Peter Griffin, Kellie Merrell and Eric Bach

Others Present Using Microsoft Teams: Craig Morris and Jim Brimblecomb

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero, Chis Burns, Keith Gadapee, Jonathan Austin-Shortt, Tasha Austin-Shortt, Lee Beattie and Joan Legendre

Meeting was called to order by Chair Eric Bach at 6:39 pm.

1. Issues and Information (All)

(a) ARPA Fund Spending

Eric Bach noted the meeting was to discuss the ARPA survey results and to input information to the projects listed on the survey and the associated costs to each project. Eric Bach noted no decision would be made tonight by the Selectboard. The meeting was for gathering information.

Peter Griffin discussed timing of ARPA funds: commitment of funds by 2024 and fund expenditure by 2026.

Sidewalk Construction from Town Fields to Center of Town

The previous feasibility study of the sidewalks was discussed. A grant was received to qualify the Town for the study. A study was done in 2014 by Durfresne Group.

Keith Gadapee noted a conceptual design for sidewalks had been done from the Village to Grandview and a few Town funds have been spent on the stormwater system to get a shovel ready project.

Eric Bach and Jonathan Austin-Shortt discussed the increased foot traffic within the area of the Fire Department.

Keith Gadapee discussed the scoping study which includes 5 foot and 8 foot sidewalks. Conceptual designs are in the previous Bike and Ped study.

Kellie Merrell discussed going to taxpayers for some projects and using ARPA funds for other grant funded projects.

Keith Gadapee thought demographics of the survey was important.

Kellie Merrell thought the Town may be able to use Northern Borders as they have Economic grants.

Janice Ouellette

Inquired if anyone anticipated much more traffic when the rail trail is completed.

Eric Bach noted it would increase based on the model by Lamoille Valley Bike, as they plan to bring people here to use the rail trail.

Janice Ouellette inquired if the train station would be used as a map point.

Eric Bach noted the hope was that every town on the rail trail would be mapped and Lamoille Valley Bike's plan is gearing toward bikes and the people on bikes would have a place to stay, eat and shop.

Town Sewage System and Sewage Treatment Upgrades

Jim Brimblecombe discussed the need for a 10k generator. He noted if the power goes out discharge could not be done. The pump station at Sugar Ridge and down by Marty's are original since 1980 and in need of work. The pump stations do not have alarms, they rely on people to let them know about lights. The lagoon cover has been discussed previously with the Selectboard and Jim Brimblecombe thought other funding options were being looked into. Influent flow meter would help with 24 hour composite flow proportions and this would help to determine if a cover is actually needed. The siding on the building is showing some soft areas and needs replacement.

Ken Linsley discussed estimated cost of Town was between 100,000 – 600,000 and wondered where the 600,000 came from.

Kellie Merrell discussed person from state that met with Selectboard in April noted an engineer estimate would be needed for real numbers. Kellie Merrell noted she would rather see if money can come from another source instead of using ARPA funds. If engineer study done it would put the Town in line to do what is needed. She noted finding an engineer to contract with is the limiting factor.

Ken Linsley noted Katie Buckley at VLCT can help identify resources and funding.

Keith Gadapee inquired if the cover would increase capacity or make the Town any more compliant with discharge.

Jim Brimblecombe discussed guidelines from the state permit and noted he could speak to DEC.

Eric Bach inquired if there was anything on the list Jim Brimblecombe submitted that should be done first.

Jim Brimblecombe noted the influent flow meter as it gives information going forward to let them know what they need to do then the lagoon cover would be next. Jim Brimblecombe noted the generator has been lived without for so long, but it would be nice to have.

Jim Brimblecombe and Kellie Merrell discussed the lagoon cover.

Ken Linsley inquired about the UV units and if they didn't work would they have any problem discharging.

Jim Brimblecombe noted he was trying to get pricing of the UV units, however the person that was supposed to show up and look at them has not.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt noted the Town has two generators, the Fire Department has one and the other is supposed to run water.

Ken Linsley inquired if the sewer treatment plant was set up for such.

Jim Brimblecombe noted the sewer treatment plant was not.

Ken Linsley discussed Clean Water State revolving fund to cover the cost of the study but it requires the Town to have it done in a certain time frame.

Kellie Merrell spoke of a fund that the state person previously discussed whereas you don't have to pay loan back and suggested to take advantage of that fund.

Jim Brimblecombe discussed the Town of Cabot who is working with Jim Brown. The town has no payments for five years and they forgive a bunch of the money on the transaction. They spoke to three different engineers and Dufrense Group was hired.

North Danville School Community Center Heating Upgrades

Lee Beattie discussed old steam furnace in building which constantly needs maintenance due to its age. Some of the wood floors have rotted out under the registers due to the steam boiler. An estimate of 30-35,000 was received for replacement.

Ken Linsley suggested an engineering study be done to find out more information for the building for possibly new heat system. Ken Linsley discussed legislative bill for revamping old heating systems and reaching out to Katie Buckley.

Lee Beattie noted the cost would be higher if the system needs to be changed.

Improved Water Runoff Infrastructure on Hill Street

Kellie Merrell discussed funding source - ARPA funds can treat at least 3 acres of impervious area and expanding drainage would be needed in order to comply.

Keith Gadapee discussed Tim Ruggles hired to do engineering study and preliminary drawings. Keith Gadapee discussed Village to Hill Street Park and stormwater and sidewalk systems. He discussed gathering stormwater from Hill Street and noted the parking lot would need to be done first, however the Town could do Hill Street and not the parking lot. A study was done by the state to tie into them but the cost was extremely high so the Town went in a different direction.

Eric Bach suggested to address parking on Hill Street while doing the water runoff infrastructure.

Kellie Merrell suggested to look at Northern Border grant and state economics infrastructure grant.

Ken Linsley suggested to contact VLCT and NVDA.

Fire Station Upgrades

Jonathan Austin-Shortt discussed new fire station in North Danville. He discussed classifying the current building as historic and noted there was room near where the old shed was next door to place the North Danville Fire Station.

Eric Bach noted the station no longer fits new vehicles, only current vehicle, so if it was replaced, it would not fit.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt deemed it necessary for fire protection on that side of town. The cost for a new building there would be somewhere between 250-300,000. He noted the building would only need to be a steel bay building with two or three bays. He also noted that water and sewer upgrades would be required.

Lee Beattie noted they could hook on to her well.

Ken Linsley discussed FEMA grants available to offset some of the building cost.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt reminded all that they were a volunteer group and because of that they did not qualify for some grants however grants would be applied for by the Town.

Kellie Merrell discussed another town that received funds was Newark, VT and they are a volunteer group.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt noted they don't meet some of the requirements. Discussed was the Village station being built in 1985 and funded by fire persons going door to door.

Eric Bach noted it was a political statement against the Route 2 bypass and not built for long term.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt noted the building is starting to show its age and they have to custom spec trucks to fit in the doors. Jonathan Austin-Shortt noted they could move to

somewhere else or they could add on a second story increasing head room and expand side enabling them to add a formal training room in the building. Noted was the floor has settled some and the current floor drains are not completely functional.

Ken Linsley inquired where they would keep the truck during a major renovation to keep them out of the weather.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt was not sure but noted Keith Gadapee had a large building and they could keep them there.

Ken Linsley noted Keith Gadapee has equipment he needs to store.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt noted the other option would be was to build a fire station in a new location and suggested near the Peck Farm however the Town would have to purchase the land. His other option was to build a fire station across from store where the land is owned by Ostermann however that area is congested and on Route 2. If renovations were done to the current building, the building would need to be brought up to code.

Eric Bach noted the next step would be to see what type of grants they could pair with this.

Ken Linsley discussed regionalization and Danville being hub for the other local towns.

Regionalization Report discussed.

Jonathan Austin-Shortt noted the majority of the department did not favor regionalization however he himself has not read the report, as it was Troy Cochran who was part of it, not himself.

Ken Linsley discussed regionalization, where equipment is located, volunteers not being able to be found, low participation and protecting the town's interest.

Peter Griffin discussed other grants to support projects and having some sort of person to do research who has knowledge of grants.

Eric Bach noted you could hire someone or reach out to the grants and they can guide you.

Construction of Parking Lot next to Town Hall

Eric Bach discussed the purchase of the home next door to Town Hall. The house was removed and the goal was for a parking lot for Town Hall and/or for persons in Town. And a study was done to determine were to drain the water from the parking lot.

Ken Linsley discussed EVs and solar canopy noting there was money out there for them. The state also has money for park-n-rides which would impact Town usage.

Kellie Merrell discussed State of Vermont Downtown Transportation Fund noting the train station has received some money from them.

Ken Linsley suggested ARPA monies to be used as cost share.

Keith Gadapee noted the 2018 estimate was \$138,000. The engineer has done conceptual drawing for a 29 site parking lot with sidewalk, separation of water/ice, green buffer and curb and changed entrance off Route 2.

Other

Christy Burns discussed flashing speed signs for Route 2 to deter people entering Town from speeding. She thinks it is a good idea since the state is re-doing Route 2 in the coming years, this is the best time to request flashing speed signs. If the speed does get lowered then the flashing speed signs would alert people.

Eric Bach discussed the Selectboard letter written to VTrans requesting a speed study. The Transportation Committee meets three times a year and will tell the Town whether lowering the speed is appropriate. They will also let the Town know when the meeting is.

Christy Burns noted the area clearly needs attention.

Ken Linsley suggested to get a letter to the head of AOT and elected officials. He noted the meeting would be open to the public and it would be good to have representation there.

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Peter Griffin to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. All in favor.

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted August 3, 2022 at 6:00 pm.