

Town of Danville  
Selectboard Minutes  
December 15, 2022  
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

**Board Members Using Microsoft Teams:** Peter Griffin

**Board Members Present:** Ken Linsley, Janice Ouellette and Eric Bach

**Board Members Absent:** Kellie Merrell

**Others Present:** Audrey DeProspero, Keith Gadapee, Peggy Beck and Walter McNeil

**Others Present Using Microsoft Teams:** Craig and Danielle Morris

**Meeting called to order** by Chair Eric Bach at 6:00 pm.

1. **Additions to the agenda:**

- Minutes of December 13
- VAST Landowner Agreement

2. *Motion by Ken Linsley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janice Ouellette to approve **minutes of Regular meeting of December 1, 2022** as written. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.*

*Motion by Ken Linsley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janice Ouellette to approve **minutes of Special meeting of December 8, 2022** as written. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.*

*Motion by Peter Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janice Ouellette to relook at and approve **minutes of Regular meeting of November 17, 2022** with correction to page 2, second paragraph from bottom, add "and as he plows the wrong way on the road" at end of sentence, 'Craig Morris was.....near the vehicle'. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.*

*Motion by Peter Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janice Ouellette to approve **minutes of Special meeting of December 13, 2022** as written. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.*

3. **Visitors**

- **Peggy Beck, resident – Keiser Pond Road Speed Issue** – has three requests which are all related:
  - 1) Change speed limit sign at beginning of Keiser coming from Route 2 from 35 to 30 for 1.2 miles (the high-density area of Keiser Pond). Speed Ordinance for Class 3 roads are posted at 35 unless otherwise marked. Peggy Beck would like a reduction immediately because there is a curve downhill, no shoulder and the road is narrow in that area which is dangerous. More houses, cars, pedestrians, children, dog walkers, and bicyclists than there was ten years ago. Peggy Beck She made a comparison to the 35 mph on the newly paved Peacham Road. Road maintenance is needed due to larger trucks creating washboard effect and habitual pot holing. Peggy Beck thought by lowering the speed limit to slow traffic down it would help with the road maintenance.
  - 2) 'Hidden driveway' sign. Peggy Beck Spoke to Keith Gadapee about.

Keith Gadapee noted he had a sign at the garage and has installed it today.

3) Consider portable radar feedback signs. Peggy Beck would like the Selectboard to put a portable radar speed sign in the budget. Peggy Beck thinks these signs are effective as they speak to the driver. Peggy Beck noted Keith Gadapee has one but he has to rotate it constantly. Peggy Beck thinks an additional one is needed and seeks the Selectboard to consider putting it in the budget to help with speeding in high density areas and to help keep roads in better condition.

Janice Ouellette noted she lives on Kittredge Road and it is posted at 30 mph.

Keith Gadapee discussed the 35 mph push ten years ago when the Town adopted the change however not all roads were reposted at 35 but the ordinance supports this.

Walter McNeil noted if the road is not posted at a speed limit, then it goes back to the 50 mph, ordinance passed and it put them to 35.

Peggy Beck inquired if Janice Ouellette liked Kittredge Road at 30.

Janice Ouellette noted yes, she loved it.

Walter McNeil spoke of flashing signs that say slow down going too fast. He thought those signs were effective.

Keith Gadapee spoke of the signs being moveable and supported having another. Keith Gadapee spoke of possible PACIF safety grant paying for another sign.

Eric Bach wondered if the school qualified for a grant to get one to post around their area.

Janice Ouellette inquired as to what Keith Gadapee thought about lowering the portion of Keiser Pond Road to 30 mph.

Keith Gadapee was concerned with the enforcement piece and wondered how effective signs really were.

Eric Bach wondered what parameters they would set around it, if others come and say they want to it to 30 in front of their house would they go by entire road, a portion of the road, and would they only consider it when someone comes and asks or would they go road to road.

Walter McNeil suggested to go by population and density.

Danielle Morris inquired if there were any signs that could be placed on Keiser Pond Road such as: caution, windy road, slow children, 30 mph.

Ken Linsley stated yellow and black signs are signs notifying persons of recommended speed.

Eric Bach discussed advisory signs.

Janice Ouellette liked the caution sign and getting another portable speed sign.

Keith Gadapee discussed caution or hazard signs and 30 mph recommended yellow and black warning plaque signs and suggested if Selectboard approved, then he would put in his budget.

*Consensus was to move forward with cautionary 30 mph sign.*

- **Walter McNeil, NEKWMD**

- Supervisory board meeting held this past Tuesday and there was a quorum. 35 out of 45 supervisors attended. 32 voted for the charter change and 3 abstained. Charter change passed but needs to go before legislature.
- Public hearing for budget held before supervisor board meeting.
- Organics grant – request to extend to end of 2023. They have an extra \$7,500 left over and want to give to the organizations who have already started things.
- Trying to get a USDA development grant for the polystyrene machine. Polystyrene has started to be collected in Danville and three other towns. So far, they have made  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a ton and once they reach one ton, the firm from Canada will come and pick it up and the district will get paid for it.
- Scrap metal container has been placed in Danville and it is working out well.
- Financial budget will end on an even note.
- Had a delay in vendor who will be taking clothing. The company acquired another company so details are being worked out.

4. **Town Clerk** (Wendy Somers) – absent, Audrey DeProspero spoke on her behalf
- Special Event Liquor License Permit for Pope Memorial Library on December 21 from 4pm until 7pm. Red Barn catering event.

*Motion by Ken Linsley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Griffin to approve the Special Event Liquor License for the Pope Memorial Library on December 21<sup>st</sup> from 4pm until 7pm. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.*

- Wendy Somers is working on the to-do list with Jim Brimblecombe for the sewer facility.

5. **Highway Foreman** (Keith Gadapee)

- Curb cut on Currier Road for Kitty and Abel Toll. It is just an additional access. It is boiler plate, easy, and there are no issues.

*Motion by Janice Ouellette, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Linsley to approve curb cut on Currier Road for Kitty and Abel Toll. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.*

- Update on plow truck – arrival second week in January.

6. **Issues and Information** (All)

(a) **Planning Commission Vacancy – Appointment**

Rob Balivet has been attending the Planning Commission meetings on a regular basis. The Planning Commission has a vacancy from Mark Nicholson who resigned on November 15. Rob Balivet volunteered for the open position. The Planning Commission approved Rob Balivet for the vacancy on December 9. The Selectboard now needs to make an appointment.

*Motion by Ken Linsley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janice Ouellette to appoint Rob Balivet to the Planning Commission for a one-year term ending in 2024. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carries.*

(b) **Town Meeting: Ballot & Voting**

Ken Linsley recommended only to mail ballots upon request. Ballots are strictly for budgets and waste district.

Eric Bach spoke to people who would like to have appropriations put on the ballot. Eric Bach would like to see these on ballot and see if it can be changed. The Town may not be able to do this year but Eric Bach would like it to move forward. Eric Bach would like folks who are unable to attend Town Meeting to have the chance to vote on the appropriations.

Ken Linsley noted they would have to do a charter change.

Eric Bach would like to move forward with that.

*Consensus is for Audrey DeProspero to contact VLCT to find out the process.*

(c) **Personnel Policy**

Janice Ouellette noted the Selectboard needed to make one decision – use of Town equipment. Communication with Jill Muhr was that it is best practice for workers not to use Town equipment as it increases Town liability.

Eric Bach noted they have made some changes and done some give and take but he wondered if this would be taking more from the Highway Crew.

Keith Gadapee noted it was more of a luxury and a perk and generally done in the winter. Their use of the Town garage is usually just for oil changes and maintenance to their personal vehicles.

Craig Morris noted if this was a liability could the Town have the crew sign a paper which indicates the Town is not liable if they get hurt.

Eric Bach noted there would not be much teeth in that type of document. It is not a real solid platform.

Ken Linsley noted anyone can sue and it would also be negligent on the part of the Town.

Keith Gadapee noted VCT is an insurance company. They are pro-active and a loss control company.

Eric Bach was not really opposed to them using the building and thought it was hard to justify taking away. Eric Bach noted if something happens down the road then they may have to take away.

Ken Linsley discussed it being one risk against the other.

Eric Bach was okay with keeping equipment use.

Peter Griffin noted he felt the same.

Ken Linsley suggested to listen to the insurance people as they are putting it there for a reason and to lessen the liability.

Peter Griffin inquired if they were voting this tonight.

Janice Ouellette noted they are not voting a final form as Jill Muhr is still working on some of the language.

Keith Gadapee noted that Janet Ouellette had not voted or given her opinion.

Janet Ouellette suggested to wait until Kellie Merrell was available so they could get her opinion also.

(d) **Budget**

Eric Bach noted the Budget doesn't look too terrible.

Keith Gadapee discussed Highway Budget:

- Some new changes have been made. Big bills came in and changed carry over.
- New truck discussed – pay for it in 2022 and not wait until 2023 until it comes in.
- Fuel and gravel went up.
- Highway Budget has gone up.

Ken Linsley inquired about property taxes for Highway Revenue and where the number came from.

Keith Gadapee was not sure why the numbers were not the same and would need to review.

Selectboard reviewed end numbers and carry over numbers.

Ken Linsley noted he would need to look at the Annual Report and compare numbers. He planned to go through it in detail.

Highway Budget discussed.

Eric Bach noted the General Budget did not have a lot of change. It is under on a few things and some numbers are based on actuals.

Ken Linsley suggested to lay out a Town Meeting schedule so as not to miss anything.

Keith Gadapee inquired about COLA.

Eric Bach noted Biden is suggesting 4.6 pay increase for federal workers not 8.7 COLA.

Noted was the next Selectboard budget meeting is scheduled for December 20 at 9am.

(e) **RFQ Engineering Study Information/Discussion** – tabled because Kellie Merrell absent

(f) **Parking Ban Ordinance** – tabled because Kellie Merrell absent.

(g) **VAST Landowner Agreement**

Eric Bach stated the State owns the bridge and the Town owns the ROW.

Discussed was VAST accessing the bridge through the Town owned land and the Landowner Agreement not being signed as the Town does not want to give permission to do work on the bridge as they do not own it. The State would need to authorize access and maintenance to the bridge.

*Motion by Ken Linsley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janice Ouellette to authorize access to the bridge on the Keiser Pond side and to approve Eric Bach to sign the paperwork with change in wording 'access the bridge through the Town of Danville land'. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carries.*

7. **Financials: Orders to review and sign** – Financials Signed.

8. **Adjourn** - *Motion by Ken Linsley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janice Ouellette to adjourn at 8:15 pm. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted December 17 2022 at 1:45 pm.