

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
November 16, 2023
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

Board Members Present: Eric Bach, Alison Low, and Glenn Herrin

Board Members Absent: Peter Griffin and Janice Ouellette

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero, Keith Gadapee, Tom Ziobrowski, Walter McNeil, Craig Morris, Clayton Cargill and Alison Despathy

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

1. **Additions to the agenda:** Scrap Metal bin. Alison Low would like to revisit the scrap metal bin decision of the Selectboard because of an email she received from Keith Gadapee. Alison Low requested 'Scrap Metal Bin' to be added to the next Selectboard agenda.
2. **Approve minutes:**
*Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2nd by Alison Low to approve **minutes of Regular meeting of November 2, 2023** with change to page 1, Section 2, change November 2 to October 19. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carries.*

*Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2nd by Alison Low to approve **minutes of Special meeting of November 10, 2023** with change to heading date: change date number from 11 to 10. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carries.*

3. Visitors

- **Walter McNeil, Jr., NEKWMD – Update**
 - Attended district meeting on Tuesday. Budget of \$947,429.00 to be voted on in December. Danville's per capita surcharge is up from \$1.06 to \$1.16. Surcharge increase for waste hauler is 76 cents. No foam has shipped lately. At the moment the district has a surplus however that changes month to month but they are expecting to end the year with a possible surplus.
 - Scrap metal bin removal has Paul Tomasi and himself quite concerned. The notification to special meeting of metal bin did not allow him to attend. Concern is for the ongoing and the actual way the situations could have been handled. The refrigerator full of spoiled food put in the bin could have stayed in the bin however Clayton Cargill took it upon himself to correct the situation. Anything that enters the dumpster is the property of the owner of the dumpster which is All Metals. Items placed inside the dumpster should not be taken out as once the item enters the bin it is no longer the property of the person putting it in there but the property of All Metals and should not be taken out. The district should have been notified or All Metals should have been notified. All Metals would have taken the dumpster out and disposed of contents and freon from the item inside the dumpster. Residents enjoy having the dumpster at the Recycle Center. It serves a very useful purpose. Suggested was for the Selectboard to give reconsideration to their judgement of dumpster removal.
- **Michael Hogue, Train Station – Update**
 - Construction at Train Station on hold for drainage due to wetlands permit.
 - Pillars put in place in north entrance.
 - St. J Academy to do electrical work.
 - Phase I limit set at \$185,000.
 - Early Release of Phase I invoiced at \$61,096 retainage of \$56,789 due at end of project.
 - Phase 2 Early Release at \$121,240 with retainage of \$13,471 at end of project.

- Gross Maximum Price at \$763,182 which is a significant reduction.
- Electric contracted to Town separately.
- Fundraising goal \$175,000.
- Goal is to raise \$50,000 prior to year-end.
- Fundraising Team to meet on 11/28 to identify possible contributors.
- Additional grants of \$30,000 should get them to the end.
- Grant approval and lease should be completed in December.
- Construction Manager will cost out the project.
- Better Connections grant in late December.

Alison Low noted the Perseveration Trust Paul Bruhn grant has opened.

Michael Hogue discussed VHCB and PTV grants.

Alison Low suggested VOREC.

Michael Hogue noted they would make a final filing for VOREC. He discussed the issue of people not wanting to see this type of money spent on the Train Station and also not being happy for paint change to original color of okra and red.

Eric Bach noted it would be an adjustment for people.

Alison Low noted it was an accurate color for original building.

4. Town Clerk (Wendy Somers)

- Health Insurance: MVP is a bit cheaper but same type of plan and coverage.

Glenn Herrin inquired if they have used both in the past.

Wendy Somers noted their current plan was MVP Platinum. She discussed history and change from BCBS to MVP. They are pretty much comparable to each other. There were growing pains in the beginning when they switched but all has been ironed out.

Glenn Herrin was okay if it was same coverage and okay with employees.

Eric Bach agreed with Glenn Herrin.

Alison Low and Wendy Somers discussed nonstandard and standard, higher deductible and out of pocket expenses.

Motion by Alison Low, 2nd by Glenn Herrin to remain with MVP Platinum Plan for 2024 medical. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carries.

- Delinquencies gone from over \$200,000 to \$91,000.

5. Highway Report (Keith Gadapee)

- Quote for salt this year is \$95 a ton. 800 tons has been reserved with Cargill.
- Slope on Bruce Badger 90% complete. Waiting on guardrail to be installed. This finishes all projects except two mitigation projects: Carey Pond and Stagecoach. Money will not be all reimbursed by end of year.
- Better Roads grant open. Deadline is first of December. Keith Gadapee to apply if Selectboard wants him to, however he was not going to apply because he has three grants ahead of him. The floods have put him behind schedule. Next year even without applying he will have those to complete. His choice is not to apply.

Alison Low inquired what the grant would be used for if he did apply.

Keith Gadapee noted the grant pays for water quality from stormwater.

Alison Low wondered if the grant was just for MGRP compliant projects.

Keith Gadapee noted yes.

Alison Low and Keith Gadapee discussed projects he would use money for.

- Mower: renting machine is \$75-88 per hour, for 400 hours of work for 10 weeks and contracting work out is \$150 an hour and estimated at \$60,000. Ryegate Foreman is bringing information to his board. Both Foremen are leaning towards fixing tractor but Ryegate would like to schedule for replacement in two more seasons however Keith Gadapee would like to fix and replace now.

Alison Low inquired what they would get if they sold it as is or if they fixed.

Keith Gadapee noted \$7,500 as is and \$25,000 if fixed. He was worried about the numbers from the repair shop. He discussed dealership distance for Challenger AGCO brand and closer dealers for New Holland, Kubota and John Deere.

Eric Bach inquired if they could talk to local folks to see what they could get for trade and what finance would look like.

Keith Gadapee discussed 10-year financing available noting he would shorten term.

Craig Morris suggested the Selectboard keep in mind when buying a new tractor that there has been trouble with DEF and repairs when they sit for some time.

Eric Bach suggested Keith Gadapee look at local brands.

- Budget schedule plan – wondered what plan was.
- Pay scales – suggested to look at and adjust.

Eric Bach inquired if the Selectboard was okay with Janice Ouellette and himself sitting down to iron out information and then bringing it back to the Selectboard.

Glenn Herrin and Alison Low noted they were okay.

6. Issues and Information (All)

(a) Danville Listers Errors & Omissions –

Eric Bach discussed Listers have discovered two errors that change the Grand List:

- Parcel ID #UE001-005000 entered as \$46,300. Corrected value is \$43,800. A decrease of \$2,500. Reduction in 2023 Grand List is \$25.
- Parcel ID#JP200-118000 acreage error. Value entered \$369,400, corrected to \$323,400, a decrease of \$46,000. Reduction in 2023 Grand List is \$460.00.

Motion by Alison Low, 2nd by Glenn Herrin to accept the letter from the Danville Listers for \$485 change to 2023 Grand List with correction of two errors for Parcel ID# UE001-005000 and JP200-118000. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carries.

(b) Town Meeting Committee Presentation –

Glenn Herrin noted this was the first of three briefings that the Town Meeting Committee anticipated giving. He discussed the update facts:

- Background: VT mandates Town Meetings both by floor and Australian ballots; both Danville and school have Charter; data collected is unreliable for attendance; and every town does it differently.

- Research notes discussed.
- Towns Across Vermont: fair amount of data found across Vermont; and perception of dwindling attendance across Vermont.
- Election of Officers: State statute allows introduction of candidates and time to talk about themselves; candidate registration; and petition requires either 30 signatures or 5% of voters.
- Recent Voting in Similar Towns/Cities: participation level does not go down but up.
- Danville TM History: early 1799.
- Participation History shows attendance not really dropping.
- Changing TM: option date time and process discussed.
- Key Planning Assumption: maximum turnout 40%; we won't get close to 100%; floor vote serves a public good; Australian ballot gives people voice but only two words – yes or no – and decreases floor meeting turnout; there are measures that will boost participation without changing format.
- Initially Identified Approaches: participation boosters advertise and daycare.
- Goal: identify options that will enhance participation.
- Timeline: at March 2024 meeting there will be a presentation to narrow down options.

Town Meeting Committee sought Selectboard guidance.

No guidance given.

Audience, Selectboard and Town Meeting Committee members discussed dedication to civic duty, affirmation, explorable venues, multifaceted analysis of all options, objective analysis that is most effective and easily implemented, hybrids, keeping same but allowing people to vote without persons seeing them vote, intimidation of speaking at Town Meeting, charter change, tradition, and accessibility.

(c) **Parking Ordinance –**

Alison Low discussed:

- Parking Ordinance being the same as last time presented.
- Fines and changes.
- Fines made ordinance difficult.
- Burden of fines and how to implement.

Glenn Herrin thought tickets were not helping much.

Eric Bach discussed Chamber events and Sheriffs non ability to assist.

Alison Low discussed greatest impact.

Glenn Herrin discussed special events.

Eric Bach and Glenn Herrin discussed Sheriff attendance at special events.

Alison Low suggested to go back to the number one goal in adopting an ordinance.

Eric Bach wondered how the Town was going to manage parking during events.

Glenn Herrin noted the Parking Ordinance would allow for tow ability.

Alison Low was concerned with safety situation and ability to tow. She was worried about cost to administer fines.

Eric Bach discussed parking and traffic control and having teeth in an ordinance.

Glenn Herring suggested Selectboard could task Chamber to have a truck on standby and not Sheriff during events.

Alison Low wondered if their discussion should impact ticketing daily or at events.

Eric Bach discussed comparison issues on Hill Street with flow of traffic and safety concerns.

Glenn Herrin noted tickets were tool for 365 days, towing was for events and not looking at Town for enforcement.

Alison Low inquired who was Enforcement Officer.

Eric Bach discussed Sheriff having availability and giving Fire Chief ability to write a ticket.

Alison Low noted there was a fine structure in the new ordinance however the winter parking hours need to be amended.

Keith Gadapee noted winter parking has not been a huge issue, it was the day-to-day parking and tenant parking however, if there is an issue, he approaches the individual to work through a solution but it gets frustrating when it continues.

Keith Gadapee and Eric Bach discussed set up and clean up during events, fire truck and ambulance accessibility crossing road and having road closed during event.

Craig Morris noted if the Fire Chief gives tickets he should not be able to tow because of conflict of interest as he owns tow truck.

Alison Low noted she would amend winter parking hours to match posted signs and amend law enforcement wording.

Discussed was bringing ordinance to Town Meeting Day so residents could weigh in.

Consensus is to add Parking Ordinance to next agenda for further discussion.

(d) **VOREC –**

Alison Low discussed Vermont outdoor grant (Recreation Economic Collaborative) which provides communities access to outdoor recreation. This grant was used by the Train Station two years ago for rehabbing and way finding. They will be re-applying once again. Janice Ouellette is planning to pursue for design funds to proceed with the eight-foot pathways but the design challenges are not a slam dunk because of the 2014 conceptual plans. They are looking to get something more shovel ready. She has reached out to Dufresne Group and they are willing to come up with an estimate to bring it closer to construction. She sought permission to proceed. If they pursue, she is not sure how many apps can come from the Town but VOREC suggested to combine so Janice Ouellette is working with Kate Whitehead.

Keith Gadapee noted the water line in that area is 100 years old and there is no stormwater to speak of.

Alison Low discussed design scope of work.

Keith Gadapee suggested she hold a conversation with the Fire District.

Alison Low discussed cost sharing, cost effect design and project scoping.

Consensus is for Janice Ouellette to work on application.

(e) **Calex Lease –**

Eric Bach discussed lease being a shorter term of two years, prior lease was three years and Calex working on merger with St. J. Changes in the lease are term and deletion of plowing and sanding. Lease is for building use at 379 Brainerd Street.

Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2nd by Alison Low to authorize Eric Bach to sign the lease thru 2025 with Calex. Vote 3-0-0. All in favor.

(f) **Pay Scales Overview –**

Eric Bach discussed pay scales have been given out to folks in Town Building. Clayton Cargill is only one that he has not connected with. The assumption going in to it is supervisory and how we would handle salary folds. Grades, steps, trainings available but no specific training, training to benefit job, Selectboard has oversight to other folks, Wendy Somers oversees Sharon Daniell and Diane Banister; everyone is on spot and Selectboard will work with folks on scale was discussed. Further discussed was an example of what we need done: goal of cross training of what can be done, ability to expand, steps based on learning, pay scale built for new hires and in general there are no real major issues.

Consensus is to add to next meeting.

(g) **Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission –**

Eric Bach suggested Historical Society lead this commission (Patty Conley Director and Diane Langmaid President)

Motion by Alison Low, 2nd by Glenn Herrin to sign the Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution for the Town of Danville. Vote 3-0-0. All in favor.

(h) **2024 Danville Bulky Dates –** bulky dates scheduled by NEKWMD for Town of Danville 2024 Bulky Waste Days are May 4 and September 21.

Consensus is dates are okay.

(i) **Scrap Metal Dumpster –**

Alison Low requested discussion of scrap metal dumpster at Recycle Center be put on next agenda and for All Metals to be put on hold for removal of dumpster until further discussion can be had.

7. Financials: Orders to review and sign

Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2nd by Alison Low to authorize Eric Bach to review and sign the Financial Orders on behalf of the Selectboard. Vote 3-0-0. All in favor.

8. Adjourn - *Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2nd by Alison Low to adjourn at 8:37 pm. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted November 21, 2023 at 10:00 am.