

Sutton Selectmen's Meeting
October 29, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Simpson at 6:00PM

Attendance: George Colburn; Larry Seymour; Scott Brill; Debra Jackson; Rick Jackson; Colleen Leonard; Jonathan Leonard; Pat Jackson; Gary Leach, Tata & Howard; Dan Jackson; Bob Michaud; Trenny Rob; Paul Brouha; Deanna Colburn; Gail Weed; Mary Gray, Clerk; Selectmen Tim Simpson; Scott Spencer; Joe Solinsky;

Additions/Deletions: Paul Brouha added

Scott made a motion to accept the minutes for September 24, 2015; October 9, 2015 and October 20, 2015. Tim seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative

As of today, October 29, 2015 there is \$808,845.85 in the Highway and General Fund. Scott made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as printed. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative.

Delinquent tax report was handed out.

New business: Tim reported that there is a dog problem and Tim has been in contact with Candace Dane and the dog owner, Fred Swallow. Tim explained a dog owned by Fred Swallow attacked and killed another small dog owned by Robert Michaud. Neighbors, Jonathan and Colleen Leonard are concerned about their own small dog since this happened about 50 yards from their house. They don't feel that they should arm themselves to walk their small dog on their own property. There is a family that lives in close proximity that have small children and Jonathan and Colleen are fearing for the children. Apparently this dog goes after small dogs not people. Tim has spoken with Fred Swallow and was notified that he has to keep his dog on his own property and if it goes off, it will be destroyed. Rob Michaud, the owner of the small dog that was killed, does not want anything from Fred Swallow, his dog can't be replaced. Fred Swallow had taken in this dog since it was his brothers and his brother passed away. The dog was licensed and had shots in Ct. but Fred has no records on the dog. Fred will be taking the dog to the vet tomorrow to get reshot and examined. Rob Michaud reported that this is a vicious dog that attacked their dog and should be put down. Tim explained the animal control officer has more power than the selectmen and the animal control officer will need to make the call. The selectmen will talk to Candace and the selectmen will seek legal advice. The selectmen will be asking Candace for a report on this incident. Robert Michaud submitted a summary of what happened when his dog was killed by Fred Swallow.

"There was a vicious dog attack at my residents at 29 Michaud Drive, Sutton, VT on Saturday October 3, 2015 at about 4:30pm. A large Pitbull, owned by Fred Swallow of Michaud Drive, Sutton, entered my property and without provocation killed our 20 pound West Highland Terrier by locking his jaw around his throat and then shook him violently on the ground breaking his neck." "s/Rob Michaud"

Tata & Howard, Gary Leach gave an update on the water project to the board stating the date has been revised to being started in 2016.

Scott made a motion to reject all bids that were received on the 9th of October 2015 for the water project. Joe seconded the motion. Discussion: Scott asked Gary why all the bids were so high, Gary stated: because of various reasons: time of year and the USDA needed to review everything before bids

went out, then winter costs are higher than summer costs; and some never received sub-contractor bids; the problem with having it started by this fall; the bidders felt there was no way to start/complete this job during the time frame that was stipulated. Scott stated that the dates were set by the engineers and were following their recommendations. Gary stated that they could reduce the cost by getting rid of the salt storage but the selectmen said there needs to be a place to store salt and feel it would not cut that much from a bid. All bids are approved by the selectmen and then taken to the USDA for approval. Scott felt that there is no way to cut corners to make any difference. Gary said even local concrete people did not even bid. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative to reject all the bids.

Scott wants to make sure there will be no more engineering costs since this was all done with the original plans. Gary did not answer. Scott asked how do we proceed now. Gary said he would write a letter for the town's recommendation that would be sent to USDA. The state wants a few minor changes. The plans are drafted and Gary feels that there is nowhere to cut corners. The next time it would go to bid would be in January 2016.

Joe made a motion to send a letter to the state requesting a change in the construction schedule. Scott seconded motion. The letter is to be sent to the state Drinking Water and Ground Water Protection Division. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative to send the letter.

Gary stated when you ask the USDA about money, there is a cost overrun to the USDA but since the cost was so high to begin with, it was not done. It could happen in January 2016.

Gary said the only thing the state wants is a meter to bypass the chemicals that maintains the ph.

Simon Operation (water testing) for estimated cost will be \$350.00 per month, now it is \$225.00. This won't be discussed since no letter was here and no one showed up to the meeting.

Scott Brill – The small engines and tanker runs on gas and Ethanol is hard on engines. Nicks Gas in Lyndonville has the non-ethanol fuel. Scott Brill would like a charge account set up at Nick's to purchase the gas. Kerrigan's does carry non-ethanol fuel so we will purchase there since we have an account.

Larry Seymour – Firehouse: Update on grading and moving the top soil and seeding then mulching. The hydrant needs to be finished. Tim would like to see the pond filled before the winter since the wood burning season is here. Larry said before occupancy permit is issued it needs a flow test. Tim stated, he wants the pond completed as soon as possible.

Celeste Girrell – Celeste submitted a price quote for security camera at the recycle center at the school. The camera would be for license plate recognition the cost was a little high and Tim would like to have Celeste renegotiate the labor costs and bring it back to the board.

Paul Brouha - Paul attended a meeting for Fall planning and zoning in Montpelier for generating electricity proposals. It was all about the small projects and deadline dates. The town needs to request party status within a timely fashion and we need to deal with this immediately since it is time sensitive. There may be Solar projects that we need to respond immediately on. Act 56 that was passed last year that gave all the towns party status, but we need to send a letter requesting party status to the public service board for any proposed projects and when the office gets something, we need to get right on it and let the selectmen know this is time sensitive.

Old Business: Junk form Letter is was a winter project for the selectmen.

Request Snow Plowing and Sanding Bids to go out: Put it out to bid and have them in by November 30, 2015.

Letter was read: Nygrens Road; TH 16 and TH 7; as been turned over to the Attorney General's Office because we receive money on it but it never was recorded by the state. Rocky Road; Benton Road; TH 16; Scott would like to compile the information we have and submit it to the Attorney General for clarification and the Agency of Transportation. Tim will call and explain that we are gathering the information and will get it to them.

The selectmen signed a letter from VTRANS through NVDA for signage on roads. Calendar Brook, Center St. Burke Rd; Underpass Road.

Joe made a motion to switch to Bernie Butlers fuel. Scott seconded. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative. Dead River will be needed to stop fuel delivery and Butler needs to be notified when they should start.

Scott made a motion to turn our line of credit into a 120 day note for \$308,249.42. And \$54,859.58 into a one year note. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative.

Scott made a motion to drop the sheriff's department to 2 hours a week. Joe seconded motion. Discussion was Tim wanted 10 hours a month. Tim called for a vote. Joe and Scott voted in the affirmative, Tim voted no. Motion passed having the sheriff's department cover for 2 hours a week.

Scott said it has been brought to his attention that the IRS rate is \$.575 for mileage reimbursement and the towns rate is \$.50 the budget has \$700.00 for mileage and we are under.

Scott made a motion to raise the mileage to \$.57 from \$.50. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. Joe and Scott voted in the affirmative. Tim voted no. Motion passed

Tim had a call on cost of living expense on the cemetery sexton and Tim could find nothing anything in his budget notes about any wage increase neither did Scott or Joe when asked. The person needs to request an increase in their hourly rate for it to be considered, it is not automatic.

Scott made a motion to adjourn at 8:50PM Joe seconded motion. All voted in the affirmative

Submitted by
Mary Gray, Clerk

DRAFT