Bethlehem Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2020

Via Zoom – Chairman Boisseau, Selectman Moore, Selectman Moritz, Selectman Jensen.

Selectman Moore (Chairman Boisseau not in meeting yet) opened the meeting at 6:03 and reminded people to leave their microphones on mute.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

**Public Hearing for proposed Littering Ordinance** – Chris McGrath said he wished this would go to the voters. The Board discussed if they could vote on an ordinance during a public hearing. **Selectman Moore moved to approve the Littering Ordinance. Selectman Jensen seconded. Roll call – all -motion carried.**

**Brett Jackson – Equipment**. **Selectman Moore moved to approve the purchase of the loader using the highway block grant. Selectman Moritz seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried**.

Chairman Boisseau said Margaret Hocking wants to form a **volunteer group to beautify the town** by picking up debris, garbage, etc. There was discussion about getting her the blue bags the conservation commission uses. The Board decided to tell her she can move forward and will give her contact info about bags in case she wants to use them. Mr. McGrath said couches are not free to get rid of at the transfer station.

**Donald Dawson – Broadband**. Mr. Dawson explained his company and what they could offer Bethlehem customers. He said service would be available mid to end of October. He explained you have to see Agassiz or go to netafy site to see if you would have access. Allegra Wright asked if it would address issues on Cherry Valley Road and was told it would.

**Police disclosing information** – Chairman Boisseau said the Chief is against disclosing the arrest logs in the newspaper and he agrees. He said if someone is arrested it does not mean they committed a crime. Mr. Jensen said he didn’t believe arrest records be disclosed but court records would be okay. Selectman Jensen said they should post court records (and arrest after they have been convicted) on website. Selectman Moritz disagrees and said they shouldn’t micromanage the department heads and should be up to the Chief. Selectman Moore trusts our police chief and said the information is available. Selectman Jensen said taxpayers have a right to have that information with a half a million budget. Selectman Moritz said she doesn’t see why that would be a positive to post that. Selectman Jensen said it is providing transparency. Chairman Boisseau said we don’t always see what the police dept is doing like other departments. He also said Chief Ho-Sing-Loy used to do a yearly presentation. Selectman Moritz said that information (yearly crime statistics) is in the town report. Selectman Jensen asked about providing a list of arrests and what is going on without giving names. Selectman Moritz said she could ask the Chief his thoughts on that. Chairman Boisseau said he would like to hear the Chief’s thoughts. Allegra Wright said it would be interesting to have a police blotter that told the crime on the date. A notice was put out in the past about being careful due to break-ins. She said that was too vague and left her with questions. Ms. Wright suggested putting it in the newsletter. Selectman Moritz said it would not be put in the newsletter. Selectman Jensen said that wasn’t her (Selectman Moritz) decision alone. Peter Roy said there is a court log in the paper and that information is available to everyone. He said people from Bethlehem are in there as well. Clay Morris asked what the overall goal is and what the key result is. He said he sees no benefit of this and need a better-defined objective. The police dept. is a preventative dept not a reactionary dept. – April. Mr. McGrath said he agrees with Selectman Jensen that it should be published but no names. Selectman Moore liked Mr. Morris’ point. She said she also gets Ms. Wright’s point. Selectman Moritz said she would talk to the Chief about a monthly report. Selectman Moore said it wouldn’t help with break-ins, it could be too late – should be weekly. Chairman Boisseau said this could be a slippery slope if they don’t post every single thing. He would like to hear what the Chief thinks. Tabled.

**USDA – Rabies Program** – Chairman Boisseau explained this is to trap animals to see if the rabies program is effective. **Selectman Moritz moved to approve trapping of animals to test for rabies for their program. Selectman Moore seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

**Phone system quotes** – both Vonage and 8x8 are approx. $690.00/month. Profile quotes are approx. 2000.00. The electrical quote is $19958.00. The phones we currently have do not work properly. There is Extra money in the budget that could pay for this. Went over the options of how to pay for this. Voice over internet so if no power will not have phone service. Will have an app so can use cell phones. **Selectman Moritz moved to go forward with Profile Technologies recommendation of Vonage and royal electric for cables. Selectman Moore seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

**Derelict properties** – Town does not have an ordinance – **Tabled**.

**Revaluation** – Chairman Boisseau explained we are due for a revaluation in 2023. Selectman Moritz said we have $36,400.00 in Capital Reserve Fund. She explained the warrant article to add to the capital reserve fund did not pass for 2020. Selectman Moritz went over the amounts for each year. She suggested putting a warrant article for 2021 to put more in the capital reserve fund for assessing and also to budget for it. She said they will need to explain to people, so it hopefully doesn’t fail again this year. She also said it will flow better to do it this way. **Selectman Moritz moved to go forward with KRT for revaluation. Selectman Moore seconded. Roll Call – all – motion carried.**

**Food Pantry Storage – Tabled.**

**Owl camera** – The Planning Board is requesting the Select Board purchase from Tech Capital Reserve Fund. Chris McGrath said a few months ago some of them decided to meet in the town hall and people outside the town hall couldn’t hear them. They tried the camera and it worked well. Selectman Jensen said it was discussed with Profile Technologies and he thinks highly of it but didn’t think it would necessarily work well for big meetings. He said it makes sense for the Select Board to buy and own it to let others use it. Chairman Boisseau said he likes the hybrid meetings due to the number of people who participate and hope to continue after they start meeting in person. Mr. McGrath asked for a laptop also because you need one to use the owl. Selectman Moritz asked if an old laptop could be used. Chairman Boisseau asked if it could be run off a chrome book and was told yes. Harry Newell said you should have a designated line instead of wireless. Chairman Boisseau asked what budget it should come from. April – money in budget and reimbursed through GOFERR. **Selectman Moritz moved to purchase owl camera pro and necessary equipment to go with it for town boards. Selectman Jensen seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

**Legal files** – April researched digitizing the files and found it is - $250.00/box on average. Profile Technologies suggested getting a Scanner w/ cofax and doing it ourselves. He said with the 54 boxes we have it would be approx. 30 hours to scan and 60 – 90 hours to organize the files. Selectmen Moritz, Moore and Jensen volunteered to do a lot of the work. There was discussion about storing the documents – server versus office 365. **Selectman Moritz moved to purchase a scanner for legal files. Selectman Moore seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried**. Rita Farrell asked if the documents would be available for public review. Chairman Boisseau said they are from the former town attorney. He said they haven’t seen them so can’t say if they are going to release them or not. Mrs. Farrell asked if they are for ongoing cases and if not, why wouldn’t they be public documents. Selectman Moore and Selectman Moritz will make arrangements to get the boxes with their trucks. The Board discussed the scanning should be done by the Board or April. They also discussed

**Drought** – There is prediction for rain for a couple days but not much after that. The Village District sent out notifications suggesting conserving water until drought over. Mr. McGrath said the golf course has had the sprinklers on.

**Selectman Moore moved to appoint Margaret Gale to Conservation Commission until April of 2023. Selectman Jensen seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

**Fuel Accounts** – The Board would be interested in extending the agreements if we can at same price.

Meeting next week instead of Columbus Day. 5th, 19th, then every week.

Minutes 09/14/20 – **Selectman Moritz moved to approve the minutes. Chairman Boisseau seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

**At 7:57 Chairman Boisseau moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91A:3 II (b) (c) (e) – Selectman Moore seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

**Selectman Moritz moved to accept Tim Fleury’s new hires. Selectman Moore seconded. Roll – all – motion carried.**

**Selectman Moritz moved to go forward with second point from Mitchell’s email on 09/28. Selectman Moore seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

**At 8:21 Chairman Boisseau moved to adjourn. Selectman Moritz seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

April Hibberd

Administrative Assistant