

Stowe Selectboard, Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting
Monday June 8, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Present:

Selectboard Members: William Adams, William Noyes, Morgan Nichols, Lisa Hagerty, Nick Donza
There were 40 participants on Zoom.

Call to Order

Chair Lisa Hagerty called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Approve the Agenda

On a motion by Mr. William Adams, seconded by Ms. Morgan Nichols, the Board approved the agenda with the modification that Item 3-B-2 and item 3-B-5 would be pulled from the consent agenda and discussed before new business.

COVID-19 Update

Kyle Walker, Town of Stowe Health Officer and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, gave an update on COVID-19. Chief Walker indicated that there are currently 1,075 cases in Vermont with 29 of those in Lamoille County, and 55 deaths as a result of the disease. There have been no new cases in Lamoille County since the last meeting. The Governor has announced that Vermonters may now travel to counties in New York and New England without the 14 day quarantine, if the county has less than 400 cases per million people. A map of those counties can be found on the State website. Travelers from other areas must still do the 14 day quarantine, or can get tested after 7 days of quarantine. Chief Walker encouraged residents to continue to self monitor and wear masks as appropriate.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of May 11, 2020 and May 26, 2020 Meetings
2. PULLED
3. Vermont Health Information Exchange Services Agreement
4. VLCT Resolution Encouraging Federal Aid to Municipalities
5. PULLED
6. Liquor Consent Items

On a motion by Mr. Nick Donza, seconded by Mr. Willie Noyes, the Board approved the Selectboard Consent Agenda items 1, 3, 4 and 6.

HDAC Exposed Exhibit

The Helen Day Art Center has proposed a number of sculptures for their annual Exposed exhibit. The Board discussed one that appears to have sharp edges, and requested that HDAC install a perimeter or fencing to discourage climbing on it or people being in close proximity to it.

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Nichols, the Board approved the 2020 HDAC Exhibit conditioned upon receipt of a Certificate of Insurance and artist addressing review comments and providing any additional supplemental requirements, including a perimeter, as requested by Public Works after review of the installation.

South Main Street Sewer Extension

During maintenance activities last year for a clogged sewer at 4 Highland Ave, it was discovered that the sewer laterals for both 4 Highland Avenue and 109 South Main Street discharge into an old sewer pipe

that goes under Mac's Market), which then discharges to the sewer main behind the building. Public Works would like to eliminate this undesirable condition and with current construction on South Main Street, they have proposed a sewer relocation plan with a 150' sewer extension. The Selectboard asked about test pit results and the amount of rock that is expected in this area, as that will be paid at Contract Unit cost and not part of the quoted \$16,435. Public Works Director Harry Shepard indicated that while there is a possibility of rock in that area, there is already existing utilities nearby and they anticipate it will be minimal.

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Noyes, the board approved the proposed South Main Street Sewer Extension and appropriate \$20,000 from the Unallocated Sewer Capital Reserves for the work.

Alternatives Presentation Public Hearing – Nebraska Valley Road Bridge #48

VTrans representatives presented alternatives for the Nebraska Valley Road Bridge #48, which they are planning to replace concurrently with Bridge 51, also located on Nebraska Valley Road. Replacement of these bridges is anticipated to happen in -2023, and the Town will be responsible for a 10% local match on the cost of the project. Currently the bridge has a rating of 5 (fair) for the deck and superstructure and 6 (fair) for the substructure, with signs of sagging and rust scale buildup. Alternatives presented were to take no action which was not recommended due to the rapidly deteriorating condition of the bridge, replace the deck (30 year anticipated life), replace the superstructure (40 year anticipated life), and full bridge replacement (75 year anticipated life), which would allow for widening of the road to meet current standards. Replacement of the bridge is the recommended alternative. Full Bridge Replacement could be with either a new bridge or a buried structure. Mr. Shepard recommended a replacement bridge as the buried structures are more sensitive to flooding. With a full bridge replacement there are several options for traffic management including phased construction or a temporary bridge located either upstream or downstream of the current bridge location. VTrans recommends a temporary bridge as a cheaper and more time efficient solution. The upstream location has a utility line that -may need to be moved, and the downstream location has archeological sensitive areas. It was determined that Public Works would look into the two locations, working with Stowe Electric, and bring back a recommendation. The Board discussed if this bridge work could be delayed due to current economic climate and the decline in local option taxes, but it was noted that once this bridge is off the program it could be 10 or more years before the State would consider it again. Mr. Robert Moore of Lamoille County Planning Commission noted that should the Town choose not to repair or replace the bridge and the bridge subsequently failed, the Town would be responsible for all costs for the replacement. There are also economies to doing both Bridge 48 and Bridge 51 at the same time with the same contractor.

On a motion by Mr. Donza, seconded by Ms. Nichols, the Board approved Alternative 3b – Full Bridge Replacement with a Temporary Bridge for maintenance of traffic during construction for Bridge #48.

Preliminary Design Project Update – Nebraska Valley Road Bridge #51

VTrans representatives provided an update on preliminary drawings for Bridge #51 located on Nebraska Valley Road. Of note, they have located the proposed temporary bridge to the south of the existing bridge as requested to avoid the nearby house, and have undertaken geotechnical investigations to confirm that the bedrock in the slope near the SE corner of the bridge does not exist and the earthwork activities previously suggested have been significantly reduced.

Stowe Arena Summer Use

On Friday, May 29th the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development released conditions for Stage 2 – Close Contact Business which permits indoor recreation facilities to open, including ice rinks. There are a number of operating requirements, including limiting the size of groups and capacity in the building, no contact games, and maintenance of a log of visitors. Based on current capacity, the Stowe Arena could hold up to 50 people if the ice was divided in half and each group of 25 was kept separate. As of July 1, adult hockey groups can have some games, but no interstate leagues. All of the hockey camps have indicated that they still plan to hold camps if the Arena is open and are willing to work within the restrictions. Skating lessons and figure skating could still happen as well. Stowe Arena has received some interest from groups who have been renting ice time at rinks that will not be opening this summer. The Recreation Commission voiced their support for the opening of Stowe Arena. The Adult Hockey League has offered assistance with screenings and other procedures as needed. The Stowe Arena will be required to create a COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan. There was a discussion on cost and the Town Manager indicated that an additional cost of \$6,000 per month for electricity. Also, the Town only budgeted for one full-time employee and some part-time help this summer. It is likely to take a minimum of two full-time equivalent employees due to increased cleaning, screening and other requirements associated with opening the Arena at this time.

On a motion by Mr. Donza, seconded by Mr. Noyes, the Board approved the opening of Stowe Arena for summer ice use and staff the rink adequately for the expected growing demand and comply with the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development's COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan.

Manager's Report

Mr. Safford noted that the Helen Day Art Center will be holding their summer camp outside in the rear parking lot under a tent this summer, with a portalet. He also notified the Board that Richard Grogan, Water Superintendent and Chief Operator has resigned effective 6/18/20.

Rachel Vandenberg, representing Stowe Promise, requested that the Selectboard reconsider the cancellation of the July 4th fireworks. -Mr. Safford noted that Northstar Fireworks has indicated they can do the fireworks show for a cost of \$11,000. The Governor has deferred to municipalities on whether or not to hold fireworks on the 4th of July with conditions to help protect the public health. These include parking cars at least six feet apart and people should stay in or near their vehicles to prevent interaction with other parties.: Legal counsel has indicated that -that a special event permit is not required to be issued as long as no fees, donations or concessions are sold/collected. -- Mr. Safford noted that Northstar Fireworks has indicated the majority of towns in the State have chosen to cancel fireworks and there is concern that the Town could get a high demand from visitors to watch the fireworks. The consensus of the Board was to support having July 4th fireworks, and directed the Town Manager to work with the police, health officer and parks and recreation department to determine how to accomplish this event safely.

Additionally, Ms. Vandenberg requested that the Town consider putting up large signs on the way into Town to alert visitors to the Stowe Promise requiring face masks. It was noted that there is concern with the many construction projects going on at this time that there may be too many signs and they could become a distraction to motorist. It was suggested that overhead banners may be an option. It was also noted that the construction signs could be turned to reminders on the weekends when active construction is not occurring. Public Works Director Harry Shepard indicated that he would look into working with

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Dale E Percy on signage to see what if anything they would be willing to accommodate and might be feasible.

On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Donza, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 8:36pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:00pm

There being no further business, Chair Hagerty adjourned the meeting at 10:00pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Earle.