

Baseball Liability

At this point in the meeting there was a fire call and Fire Department representatives had to leave before speaking on items next on the agenda. The Board asked Alyssa Worster if she wouldn't mind moving up on the agenda to discuss baseball liability. She agreed.

There was a general discussion on the St. Albans baseball team, the history of the Recreation Department, and the current situation where the team is not insured, and although they are working for the best interests of the children they are exposed to liability should an accident occur.

It was generally agreed upon by all parties that the Recreation Department hasn't met officially as a committee since the playground was built. The Baseball team was covered by insurance until they left the Little League, and have been uninsured since they left the league two years ago due to the high costs. The status of both requires a fresh look.

Chairman Weymouth was of the opinion that the situation needs to change and we need to get this team under the Town's wing and the town should cover these insurance costs. Manager Fisher was asked to contact the insurance company to see how this could be accomplished and report back to the Board at their next meeting.

Pond Road Update

Manager Fisher and Road Commissioner Snowman presented a letter detailing the importance of removing trees, a written motion for the Board to consider, and a Hold-Harmless agreement prepared for the property owners to sign. The Selectmen discussed the documents in depth and recommended that some changes be made on the Hold Harmless agreement.

Motion by Peter Denbow to approve the removal of trees on three properties on Pond Road adjacent to the Town's Right of Way subject to the following conditions:

- 1. More sunlight on the future improved road surface will extend the life of the road*
- 2. Improved travel conditions in inclement weather*
- 3. A reduction in road icing in winter weather conditions equals less maintenance*
- 4. Reduced hazardous conditions due to removal of trees that could fall or drop large branches on the roadway*
- 5. A hold-harmless agreement between the Town of St. Albans and the property owners that indemnifies the owners, the town, its agents and employees from any damages, injury, and liability relating to the tree removal. As per the owner's request, Town of St. Albans, its agents, assigned, will cut and leave the trees on the property for the owners to further cut and remove or use. Only tree between the existing road right of way and an existing stone wall will be removed.*

*Properties: Map/Lot 29/12 Robert Martin/Charlotte Fawcette
Map/Lot 29-13 Charlotte Fawcette
Map/Lot 29-14 Gregory Martin*

Seconded by Hiram Weymouth. All in Favor.

Fire Department Salaries

Jamie Cooper and Dennis Smith of the Town's Fire Department expressed to the Selectmen their concern about the fact that there are more firefighters out on calls and some are getting paid more than the officers' stipends. Also that Manager paid the Fire fighters more than the minimum wage and the result is the account is over budget after six months. After being questioned by Manager Fisher, both men agreed that the large increase in the number of fire fighters responding to calls is the main contributing factor to the increase in costs.

According to both men, originally the firefighters were paid until the town reached the budget total and then after that they were not paid. Jamie Cooper stated he would get this fixed at the next budget meeting. Mr. Smith believed the men should be paid at minimum wage and this was also his issue with the budget. Manager Fisher stated that he felt the firefighters should be paid more than minimum wage and he wasn't certain he could simply stop paying them. Worker's compensation is based upon salary. They are employees of the town. Peter Denbow and Hiram Weymouth asked Manager Fisher to look further into the insurance and hourly wages and get back to them at the next meeting. Jamie Cooper suggested paying them by stipend or like it was handled in the beginning but we will to get it fixed because it can't stay the way it is now.

Fire Department Building Costs

Jamie Cooper stated that siding changes were made by the Manager without first consulting with the Fire Chief. Manager Fisher responded that the Chief was present that morning before the town purchased the siding and agreed with the decision. He could have said no. Manager Fisher explained in more detail that the contractor arrived and was prepping the South side of the structure and discovered there was no insulation on the South side of the building. There is insulation on the North side of the building only. That required a change order to install the board insulation. And that required pulling the corner molding off the front which then revealed there is no insulation on the front of the building either.

Manager Fisher stated that he gave the approval to re-side the front of the building after inspecting the existing building conditions with the contractor and later that morning with the Fire Chief.

Mr. Cooper expressed his concern about the metal siding costing more than vinyl that was originally proposed. Manager Fisher said the cost was comparable. He read from Jay's Construction estimate for vinyl of two sides of the building was \$1363.00 and the Town paid \$2161.45 to Mid Maine Metal for three sides of the building with metal siding. Manager Fisher stated that the R-Factor is better and this siding will last and is guaranteed to for longer time period and won't be damaged by falling snow and ice.

Fisher recalled that this project was in the 2020 budget for supplies only and that Fire Chief was going to get inmates from the next County to install the siding. ~~He wasn't informed there were outside contractors providing estimates until Spring of 2020.~~ Jamie Cooper stated the doors would be installed on July 29th tentatively.

Hiram Weymouth asked about where the funds would come from and Manager Fisher replied that the siding supplies came from the supplies budget as approved. The remaining costs for labor, doors and electrical work will come from Contingency and Fire Department Donation account. Mr. Smith stated that the Fire Department voted to only approve \$2500.00 to the project. Manager Fisher replied that he and he Chief had discussed a more even approach to payment between all three accounts.

Election Day Request

Manager Fisher stated that the staff would like to close the office for election day so they can concentrate on the election. After a short discussion, no action was taken.

Tax Acquired Property

Manager Fisher informed the Board that there is a tax acquired property on Denbow Road that can be placed for sale. According to the our records, we have tax acquired property formerly owned by John and Lucy Vachon, a 58.7 acres property near Stage Rd and Denbow Rd., Map/Lot 002-031. There was a spirited discussion on the property location and size. Manager Fisher was directed to move forward with the sale process, but also to reach out to the owners.

Opioid Forum at Town Hall in August

Manager Fisher asked if the Board was interested in allowing Somerset County to hold an opioid forum on August 6th. After a short discussion the consensus was to wait until the fall.

Veteran's Ordinance Clarification

Manager Fisher provided the Board with a copy of the existing ordinance and in specific, to show them that the ordinance allows a Veteran register vehicles without paying excise tax. His staff believed that Rhonda's policy was one car per soldier. Hiram Weymouth thought the policy could be no more than two cars. Peter Denbow suggested revising the Ordinance to set a number. After discussion it was generally agreed that the situation doesn't happen often enough to re-write an ordinance, and to use discretion and review on a case by case basis.

Treasurer's Report

Manager Fisher reviewed the monthly Treasurer's Report with the Board. He informed the Board that the Certificate of Deposit for the General Fund is maturing and will not be rolled over, but transferred back into the account. The two Certificates of Deposit for Public Works are also maturing and will be transferred back into the Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve account.

New Truck Bids

Road Commissioner Snowman presented his recommendation for the Selectmen to purchase the [truck from the] low bidder, Daigle & Houghton with an International Truck with automatic transmission with additional extended warranties. Bid price for the truck: \$ 102,700. Mr. Snowman will use the body from another truck and then find a plow unit to purchase separately.

Motion by Peter Denbow to purchase a single axle truck from Daigle & Houghton, Hermon, ME at \$102,700 and with additional extended warranties that were negotiated by Mr. Snowman. Seconded by Hiram Weymouth All in Favor

Sand Bids

Brady Snowman recommended K&F Construction despite his unhappiness with last year's sand that they supplied. Peter Denbow stated that if the Board approves this company again we have to clearly express our dissatisfaction with the poor quality [of materials] last year. Commissioner Snowman agreed to do so.

Motion by Hiram Weymouth, seconded by Peter Denbow to approve K&F Construction at \$ 8.10 per cubic yard – delivered \$ 5.25 per cubic yard at pit – Caanan. All in Favor.

Clothing Allowance

After a lengthy discussion with Road Commissioner Snowman about CINTAS and clothing budgets and costs, *Peter Denbow made a motion for the Road Commissioner to spend the remaining part of his budget however he sees fit in the best interests of the employees under his direction. Seconded by Hiram Weymouth All in Favor.*

Fire Department Report

Dennis Smith reported that had a preventative burn call tonight and a life flight call that was later canceled. They have 25 members now and things are coming along well. They have hot water now and the shower works, cost \$10.00. They still need an electrician to run some wires.

Selectmen Reports

Peter Denbow attended the ITCC meeting today. Rep from KVCAP was present and talked about changing the boundary lines and there are parking space issues and the town wants access that limits parking for KVCAP for basketball. There are several items that need to be worked out. The library is still planning to move and there is a lot of activity at that building. BINGO is still waiting for permits. [The have a busy schedule with] Basketball tournaments, soccer, and more but they may run out of money by the time it gets cold and they have to buy oil.

Manager’s Report

[Manager Fisher] received a letter thanking the Fire Company and included a donation. [Manager Fisher] installed a solar light at Town Landing. It’s not high enough. [He] would like to get it placed higher by the public works department. Hiram Weymouth expressed concern about people parking illegally at town landing.

[Manager Fisher explained that] we hired Chuck [for the Town Clerk position] after we had paid him for the computer work. Peter Denbow suggested he do it after hours. [Manager Fisher reported] that David Neal decided not to work for the Road Department [after being offered the position.] No change for hourly rate for Chuck Grump.

The Treasurer’ warrants were signed

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Fisher
Manager
Town of St Albans

Hiram Weymouth, Chair Peter Denbow Todd Brown, Vice -Chair

Date: July 27, 2020

