

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
January 7, 2021
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

Board Members Present Using Zoom: Eric Bach, Kristin Franson, Kellie Merrell and Henry Pearl

Board Members Present: Ken Linsley

Others Present Using Zoom: Keith Gadapee, Greg Prior, Hollis Prior, Brian Henderson, Terry Hoffer, Craig Morris, and John McClung

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero, Sam Bromberg, and Wendy Somers

1. **Meeting was called to order** by Chair Ken Linsley at 6:00 pm.
2. **Additions to the agenda:** None
3. *Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Henry Pearl to approve **minutes** of the **Regular meeting of December 17, 2020** as written. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

*Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to approve **minutes** of the **Candidates meeting of December 28, 2020** with change, page 1, strike 'School will present first then Town'. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

4. **Visitor**

- Terry Hoffer – DRB Appointment – Terry Hoffer requested to be appointed to the DRB (Development Review Board), filling the three year vacated term of 2020-2023. Terry Hoffer discussed his background, noted was his Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning.

Brian Henderson, Chair of the DRB, noted the DRB approves Terry Hoffer's appointment.

Motion by Henry Pearl, 2nd by Kristin Franson to appoint Terry Hoffer to the Development Review Board for the expiring term of 2023. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

5. **Town Clerk** (Wendy Somers)

- Final budgets are out to Eric Bach and Kristin Franson.
- Carry overs are: \$191,855.98 Highway; \$1,467.48 General.

Ken Linsley suggested Eric Bach and Kristin Franson finalize the last data for the budgets that they are looking at and send the draft proposals to Selectboard.

Selectboard discussed scheduling a special meeting next week to review budgets as final budget is needed by the 18th.

Special meeting to review budgets to be held Friday, January 15th at 6pm.

6. **Highway Foreman** (Keith Gadapee)

- Logger working in the area of Water Andric and Town Highway 78 has requested use of the new bridge for overweight vehicle. Bridge weight investigated. A curb cut and overweight permit has been completed and a deposit has been secured.
- Waiting on body for new truck.
- Individual interested in open Part Time position. Person seeking to work 10 months per year (taking January and February off). Person would like to work more hours in the summer and not so much in the winter. Person is a good candidate because of prior knowledge and experience. Proposed to the Selectboard is to consider Full Time Seasonal position with details to be worked out such as benefits, not working in January and February, holidays, pay and possible vacation.

Keith Gadapee would ideally want position to be on call November through April and full time in the summer.

Kristin Franson noted the classification would be important for benefits.

Concerns were for economic cost and current employees.

Selectboard suggested that Keith Gadapee provide a more detailed plan. Discussed was breakdown of possible options, benefits of how it works for Part Time, how this addition would benefit the current highway employees, and fairness to all employees.

Kellie Merrell noted that the need for a person seemed to be in the summer.

Ken Linsley suggested Keith Gadapee get in contact with Wendy Somers, Kristin Franson and/or Eric Bach as each have background and are familiar with Employment Law.

Keith Gadapee to provide job duties, impact on other employees, cost, and benefits.

- Train station Committee researching what to do with building. Keith Gadapee offered to research for Selectboard information to relocate current Recycle Center to the Highway location. Keith Gadapee sought information on what the Selectboard's plan was for the Recycle Center. Keith Gadapee has contacted a contractor for cost associated with adding an addition to one of his buildings for recycling.

Ken Linsley inquired as to the Committee's plans for the Train station and how would the plan be funded.

Keith Gadapee noted the committee was working on that information.

Kellie Merrell favored putting something on the Town Warning and favored making another facility attached to a currently used Town building that was capable of being used differently if needed.

Kellie Merrell thought the building to be built should be consistent to what Paul Tomasi of NEKWMD recommended and the design suitable for recycling.

- HRA - Kellie Merrell inquired about the current HRA issue.

Wendy Somers spoke to Health Equity who noted that it takes 30-45 days to set up the new year funding. Current prescriptions will need to be paid out of pocket and will be reimbursed. HRA spending will need to be decided between October 1st and November 1st going forward.

- Brisco letter – Keiser/Oneida Pond - Ken Linsley discussed the Keiser Pond and Oneida Road area, noting it was a gravel road and gravel moves when you plow and grade it. He would like to send a letter seeking the Brisco's recommendations or suggestions on how they think the Town can alleviate this situation.

Henry Pearl favored sending a letter.

- Sidewalk plow/snowblower - Craig Morris inquired why the Highway Department uses the sidewalk plow and not the snow blower.

Keith Gadapee noted that the plow is faster than the snow blower. The snow blower is used to get rid of snow and out of the way. The snow blower is much slower than the plow. The plow is cleaner than the blower.

Kellie Merrell inquired how long it took to use either.

Keith Gadapee noted it depended on how much snow was there and how the state truck and he coordinates timing. One round is about an hour if using the plow, however if he uses the snow blower it is double the time.

7. Issues and Information (All)

(a) Cannabis –

Sam Bromberg of Danville spoke of cannabis noting he hoped to run a cannabis business in Danville one of these days. Sam Bromberg supported cannabis establishments and discussed legalization noting historical data showed influx of businesses and hiring persons in town.

Kellie Merrell discussed US News and World Report article on Brattleboro retail marijuana. According to the article State regulators have until October 2022 to create a Cannabis Control Board to oversee establishment of the retail marijuana market. Kellie Merrell wondered what happens in the meantime and noted that voters have another opportunity to vote on this at Town Meeting Day 2022 and did Danville want to be one of the first towns voting on this.

John McClung discussed wording for Town Meeting and law that allows towns to opt-in to consider having a business and thought the Selectboard would want to know if residents want to opt-in or not. John McClung noted a business that came to Town would have to be regulated per state laws. John McClung noted the Town could say they did not want the business but residents should have the option if interested to opt-in to this.

Henry Pearl discussed opting in to something that is unknown was unsettling. Henry Pearl did not have a problem with the wording but would like clarity on the subject. Information is hinging on the state.

Ken Linsley discussed opt-in concern of once the Town does opt-in could the Town opt-out. Ken Linsley also had concern for regulations.

Henry Pearl did not feel a sense of urgency for the opt-in to be on the ballot as he did not want to encourage business that they do not know what they would be encouraging.

John McClung wondered if the Town could wait a year or two then when clarity is known could they opt-in. John McClung did not feel there was a rush to get the subject on the ballot.

Kellie Merrell supported putting things out to residents to decide on but was concerned for voters having enough information on the subject.

Kristin Franson agreed with letting Town vote but was concerned if someone asked a question that the Selectboard could not answer.

Subject to be put on next agenda.

(b) 2021 Town Meeting updates:

Ken Linsley inquired if remote locations for people who do not have access to internet at home were established.

Eric Bach noted more information was needed for churches to make a decision on meeting dates. Noted was the Library had put in Plexiglas and it may be able to be used as a possible remote location.

Ken Linsley inquired if the Selectboard wanted the social appropriations to be lumped together or individually on the ballot.

Eric Bach did not want to lump appropriations together and suggested for them to be individually listed.

Henry Pearl favored individual listings.
Kristin Franson and Kellie Merrell also suggested individual listings.

Ken Linsley noted there were not a lot of candidates at the present time for sign ups. Last day for candidates to get their name on the ballot is January 25th.

Ken Linsley suggested a brief write up and picture could be placed on the Town website so that residents would have information on the potential candidates.

Kellie Merrell liked that idea.

Ken Linsley inquired if Eric Bach still wanted an open format on March 2nd for persons to gather as group to ask questions which would be similar to their informational meeting but with a limited time frame.

Eric Bach noted that he thought it was a good idea.

Keith Gadapee inquired where the election would be held, as his understanding was the school was not open to the public nor was public to be let in.

Ken Linsley noted the school was the designated voting location, however this had not been addressed recently with the school administration. Ken Linsley will follow up with school and school board officials.

Informational Meeting

Dates for information meetings were discussed. Decided was the following dates would have informational meetings which started at 7pm and held via Zoom:

Thursday, February 11
Monday, February 22
Monday, March 1
Tuesday, March 2 during Town Meeting Day

March 2nd Town Meeting Day polls to be open from 10am until 7pm.

Discussed was putting a breakdown of items on the Town's website which residents could access for information such as ballots, budgets, social appropriations and candidate information.

Budgets – see Town Clerk

8. Financials: Orders to review and sign

Motion by Henry Pearl, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to authorize Chair Ken Linsley to review and sign the Financial Orders on behalf of the Selectboard. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

9. **Adjourn** – *Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted January 8, 2021 at 10:45 am.