



TOWN OF LYNDON  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
October 26, 2020  
5:30 PM

Selectboard: Christian Thompson-Chair, Dan Daley, Nancy Blankenship

Officials: Dawn Dwyer, Justin Smith

Press:

Public: Steve Gray, Sarah Lafferty, Gary Paris, Larry Willey

1. Adjustments to the Agenda:

\*Conference Room Rental \*Remove agenda item 9 \*Planning Commission Resignation

2. Approval of minutes:

Motion made by Nancy Blankenship, seconded by Dan Daley, to approve the October 12, 2020 minutes as amended. Motion carried 3 to 0.

3. Approval & Signing of Orders drawn on the Treasurer:

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to approve the orders drawn on the Treasurer for weeks # 42 & #43 with the Treasurer to sign due to COVID-19. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Health Insurance:

The 2021 health insurance renewal period is approaching. The CDHP Gold Plan went up 10.96%. Some of the deductibles were lowered and some benefits added. This plan is still cheaper than the Platinum Plan and the difference between the two plan premiums are provided to the employees as an HSA payment. The HSA payment will decrease as the difference between the two plans decreases. Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to renew the BlueCross & BlueShield health insurance plans for 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Community Video Discussion:

Sarah Lafferty, Lyndon Chamber of Commerce President, discussed the opportunity to work with CGI Company to create informational/promotional videos about the area for potential visitors or people looking to relocate to our town. CGI makes the videos for towns and chambers for free and asks businesses to sponsor the videos. There are no minimum number of sponsors needed for them to make the video. Any business that chooses to sponsor will get a video made for their business. The business has the rights to the video and can share it on their website or social media.

Sarah will be asking the Chamber to vote on working with CGI Company. If both the Chamber and Town are interested, the two videos could be linked. That way businesses would only have to sponsor once to show up on both videos. CGI has made a video for Montpelier which Sarah shared the link to. The earliest CGI could get started would be six weeks. Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to join with the Lyndon Chamber of Commerce in making a promotional video of Lyndon. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Covered Bridge Maintenance Fund Discussion:

With Lyndon being the "Covered Bridge Capital of the NE Kingdom" Sarah Lafferty would like the Selectboard to consider budgeting a small amount annually for maintenance and repairs of the covered bridges in Lyndon. Many need painting and boards replaced. The Selectboard will consider the suggestion during the upcoming budget discussions.

7. Covered Bridge Reserve Fund Discussion:

Sarah Lafferty inquired about setting up a restricted bridge repair fund, through the Town, that community members could donate to. Whites Market has a “Coins for Community” program in that customers can round their grocery bill up to the nearest dollar and the “coins” go to the nonprofit organization of the month. She would like the Covered Bridge Fund to be considered for 2021. Dawn Dwyer, Clerk & Treasurer, said it would be no problem to establish the fund. Any funds that are turned in would be deposited immediately.

Sarah also asked if it would be possible if volunteers wanted to paint some of the bridges. Volunteers would have to sign a liability waiver.

8. Fire Department Vehicle Sales:

Chief Jeff Corrow would like to sell two vehicles in the Fire Department fleet: a 1984 Ford F800 with 43,558 miles and a 1990 Spartan E-One with 21,283 miles. Justin Smith provided draft bids for the Selectboard’s review. Due to the Town’s current policy, all equipment sales require sealed bids for anything over \$2,500. Jason Lefevre, Line Superintendent of Lyndonville Electric Dept. (LED), agreed to parking them between the Fire Station and the LED garage to be available for public inspection. Bids will be due by 1:00 PM on December 2, 2020 and will be opened during the December 7, 2020 Selectboard Meeting. The Town reserves the right to reject all bids. The vehicles offered can be found on the Town’s website [www.lyndonvt.org](http://www.lyndonvt.org), on Front Porch Forum and on the Lyndonville Fire Department’s Facebook page.

9. Letter of Interest Planning Commission Opening:

10. Composting Discussion:

Travis Gilman of Keep It Green Composting provided two options for curbside service: a five gallon pail for \$10 or a thirty-two gallon toter with wheels and lid for \$15. Eric Paris, in conjunction with Black Dirt Farm, would like to meet with Justin and a Selectboard member to discuss composting at his property on Pudding Hill. Dan Daley offered to meet with Justin and Eric.

11. Northeast Kingdom Waste District (NEKWMD) Preliminary Budget:

Steve Gray submitted the preliminary NEKWMD budget information. Four scenarios were outlined to raise the \$12,790 revenue shortfall. The NEKWMD Board is considering the fourth option which is to distribute the shortfall over the three funding mechanisms: stop charges, per capita and the surcharge. The NEKWMD delayed voting on the proposed budget until November. The representatives wanted time to speak to their respective Boards.

12. Municipal Office Building Conference Room Rental:

Kingdom East Unified Union School District (KESD) is looking for space to rent as a classroom. They are interested in the conference room until June 2021. It would be treated as all the other classrooms in the district as far as cleaning and sanitizing. They would need one bathroom. Based on square footage, the monthly rent would be approximately \$312 per month.

13. Planning Commission Resignation:

Nancy Blankenship submitted her resignation as a member of the Planning Commission due to her appointment to the Selectboard. Motion was made by Dan Daley, seconded by Christian Thompson, to accept Nancy Blankenship’s resignation with sincere thanks for her time. Motion carried 2-0.

Justin Smith also informed the Board that due to the passing of Ed Jarrosak, there is a vacancy for a Rural Community Transportation (RCT) representative, and we are still down one Northeast Kingdom Waste Management representative. Vacancy notices will be posted for all three positions.

14. Executive Session: 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1) Labor Relations:

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to find that premature public knowledge of labor relations discussion will clearly place Lyndon at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing their negotiation strategy. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to enter executive session at 7:11 PM to discuss the Town's labor relations under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to leave executive session at 7:50 PM. Motion carried 3-0.

Christian Thompson, Chair, announced no decisions were made.

15. Other:

- a. Justin had contact with a couple different people regarding their continued efforts towards opening the Fenton Chester Ice Arena (Arena). Lyndon Institute has Palmieri Roofing lined up to fix the Arena's roof damage caused last winter by heavy snow and ice buildup. Nancy Blankenship spoke at the last Kingdom East School District Board (KESD) meeting regarding potential funding streams. KESD uses the Arena during their Winter Sports Program.
- b. Information shared with the Board:
  - i. Letter of Interest in Planning Commission from Nedah Warstler
  - ii. Better Roads Program
  - iii. NEKWMD – Paul Tomasi shared some information regarding the surcharge for 2018, 2019 & 2020.
  - iv. Sarah Cousino provided a summary of the meetings between Calex Ambulance Board of Directors and Lyndon Rescue Board of Director.
  - v. Justin received an anonymous letter regarding the house located on 3351 Red Village Road.
  - vi. Emails were received from Martha Elmes and Brian Lafferty regarding Joe Buzzi's property at the north end of Main Street.
- c. Dawn Dwyer updated the Board on the processes mandated by the Secretary of State's Office regarding the General Election. Masks and social distancing will be required inside the building. Outside voting is available for those who can not or do not wish to wear a mask.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

Minutes taken by Dawn Dwyer

Approved by the Selectboard: November 9, 2020