



TOWN OF LYNDON  
SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING  
December 7, 2020  
5:30 PM

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

Officials: Dawn Dwyer, Justin Smith

Press:

Public: Steve Gray, Mike Welch, Larry Willey, Spencer Martin

1. Adjustments to the Agenda:

Rural Business Development Grant & Cemetery Request

2. Rural Business Development Grant:

Mike Welch presented a USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) opportunity. The program is designed to benefit small businesses. The maximum grant amount is \$250,000, and Mr. Welch suggested that the Town apply for no more than \$100,000. There have been discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Lyndon to apply for the grant to staff a position, either on a contract or personnel basis, to do grant writing, economic development, and project management. A letter of intent is due by December 11, 2020 to let the USDA know we are interested. The actual application is not due until February 26, 2021 which allows time to better define the project, develop a budget, and the other tasks required. If NCIC is to administer the grant there would be a fee involved. Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to write the initial letter of intent to pursue this grant for economic development interests. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Approval of minutes:

Motion made by Nancy Blankenship, seconded by Dan Daley, to approve the November 23, 2020 minutes as amended. Motion carried 3 to 0.

4. 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 # 48 & #49 with the Treasurer to sign due to COVID-19. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Shores Museum Grant Application Request:

Lyndon Historical Society members are requesting permission to move forward with applying for a Preservation Trust of Vermont 1772 grant to help repaint the Shores Museum. The amount of the 1772 grant is \$10,000 with a \$10,000 match for a project total of \$20,000. The Society has not yet received a quote on the paint costs. Painting is the top priority. Any left-over funds would go toward replacing the furnace first and then doing some electrical work within the Museum. The Town would need to include the \$10,000 in the 2021 budget to cover the match. Motion made by Nancy Blankenship, seconded by Dan Daley, to build the \$10,000 into the 2021 budget and approve the Historical Society to apply for the grant. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Access Permit Application: Tabled: waiting for more information from the Road Foreman

7. Fire Truck Bids:

There were no bids received for the 1990 Spartan and five bids for the 1984 Ford F800 Fire Engine. Justin had to call one of the bidders to clarify the bid. The bidder asked if he was the high bidder, which he was. He then told Justin that his circumstances had changed, and he did not want the truck. Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to accept the high bid of \$1,050 from Tim

Roberts. Motion carried 3-0. Other bids received were \$505 from Greg Hopkins, \$450 from Tom Corrigan and \$259.99 from Gene Before.

It was decided that the 1990 Spartan would be advertised again for one month.

8. Town Meeting Location & Articles Discussion:

Dawn Dwyer, Clerk & Treasurer, spoke regarding emails received from VLCT as well as Senator Joe Benning relating to a bill that will be submitted by the Senate Government Operations committee to offer municipalities options on Town Meeting Day. These options will allow the Municipality to change the date of its annual meeting, allow them to mail out ballots for some or part of their articles, and gives some flexibility to the Secretary of State to help them administratively, similar to the November election. The Municipality was given the right to decide whether to use Australian ballots during this pandemic without a vote of the full town during the last legislative session. It was discussed what Lyndon's Town Meeting would look like in 2021. Dawn's recommendation is to have a plan early enough so that we can start educating the voters. This topic will be discussed again at the next meeting with the hopes of having more information.

Chad Ste. Marie is requesting that the Town place the following question on the warning for the 2021 Town Meeting: "Shall the Town of Lyndon permit the operation of licensed cannabis retailer and Integrated Licensees, subject to such municipal ordinance and regulation as the Selectboard may lawfully adopt and implement?" Nancy Blankenship requested clarification of the terms "cannabis retailer" as well as "Integrated Licensees".

9. Town Reports Discussion:

Dawn Dwyer, Clerk & Treasurer, shared with the Board what was required to be included in the Annual Town Report as found on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns website. It was also discussed how best to distribute the reports since the typical locations (Municipal Office Building and Cobleigh Public Library) are closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was agreed that it would be a considerable cost to mail them out to each voter. The cost to print the report earlier this year was \$2.58 per report. It was decided that distribution of the reports would be widely advertised starting as soon as Town Meeting plans have been decided. There was also discussion about printing Town Reports on request and making a digital copy available on the Town website.

10. Mural Discussion:

Martha Elmes asked the Selectboard to consider displaying the mural painted by approximately 75 community members on the Municipal Office Building. The project was a paint by number on six panels that once done was sealed to make it weather resistant. She proposed two different locations: on the wall near the entrance by the gym or on the south wall of the gym on the driveway side. It was discussed that the wall by the entrance would be better so that those wanting to look at it would be out of the way of traffic. Justin Smith suggested putting it high enough so that when the snow blower cleans out the entrance way it does not hit the mural. Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to approve hanging the mural on the outside gym wall in the entrance way. Motion carried 3-0.

11. Cemetery Request:

Eric Berry reached out to Justin Smith asking permission for Rock of Ages to enter the cemetery to pour a pad for his sister's headstone. The cemetery was closed at the end of October and Brian Coderre, Sexton, is no longer on the Town's payroll. Brian would have to do research to determine the location. Motion made by Dan Daley to approve Eric Berry's request to allow Rock of Ages entry into the cemetery to prepare the base for a headstone place. Hearing no second, the motion failed.

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

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town's labor relations with Town employees would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage, because of the Selectboard's risk of disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the proposed contract terms in public. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to move into executive session at 7:24 PM to discuss the employee raises under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes.

After coming out of Executive Session at 8:35 PM, no decision was made.

13. Executive Session: 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1) Pending Litigation:

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town's pending litigation with the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage, because the Selectboard's risk of disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the pending litigation in public. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to move into executive session at 8:41 PM to discuss pending litigation with the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes.

After coming out of Executive Session at 8:47 PM, no decision was made.

Other:

- a. A letter was received from the Town of Danville's Highway Department offering their services in the event Lyndon's highway department finds themselves with a shortage of manpower due to the pandemic.
- b. Justin Smith and Dan Daley met with Rick Angell and Mike Lowe from Lyndon Institute (LI) regarding the Fenton Chester Ice Arena. LI will heat the appropriate areas to avoid freezing pipes, and they will also check a section of the turf that is down for mold. If there is no evidence of mold, they will leave it in place. They will rent the turf if there is any interest and it is allowed under the Governor's mandate due to the pandemic. LI's Management Agreement with the Town of Lyndon ends on July 31, 2021. Nancy Blankenship asked what repairs were needed. The major roof repairs are complete. The parts for the water softener have been purchased and are waiting for the plumber to do the work. The Zamboni needs to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$460,000. The existing Zamboni has already had an engine replacement. A new furnace is needed and at some point, the roof needs to be replaced.
- c. Steve Gray informed the Board that there is a Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The budget is the only agenda item.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM

Minutes taken by Dawn Dwyer

Approved by the Selectboard: December 21, 2020