

TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY MEETING

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
7 PM at Craftsbury Town Hall

~revised & approved~

SELECT BOARD MEETING: 7 PM

Present: Jim Jones, Bruce Urie, Susan Houston, Yvette Brown, Michelle Warren, Chris Rabe, Kathy Rabe, Rudy Chase, Kim Roberge, Jane Marlin, Paul Gruhler, Penelope Doherty and Linda Ramsdell.

SELECT BOARD AGENDA:

- Jim called meeting to order
- **Action** - Adjustments/Changes to Agenda
Jane requested that the agenda item wording be corrected to say the Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) is requesting the support of the Town of Craftsbury to apply for Community Development Block Grant Cares Act Public Facility Funding (CDBG-CV) from the State of Vermont.

Susan added beach to the agenda.

The Select Board approved changes to the agenda.

- **Action** - Approve of Minutes
Bruce made a motion to approve the September 7, 2021, minutes as printed, Susan seconded, minutes approved.
- **Action** - 4C's Request for \$20,000 of ARPA Funds Toward Filtration System-Jane Marlin

Corrected to:

Action - Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) is requesting the support of the Town of Craftsbury to apply for Community Development Block Grant Cares Act Public Facility Funding (CDBG-CV) from the State of Vermont

Jane requested help from the town in getting the Cares Act funding for CCCC. In order to get the block grant, CCCC needs the support of the town of Craftsbury, by opening the grant and having a hearing. She explained that the Care Center very much needs these funds. Built in 1984, the air quality standards are different than it was back then. It's a very expensive fix, approximately a half a million dollars. She further explained it will help not only the air quality, but heat distribution and energy efficiency (see

attached letter). Jane said that this grant has to be awarded and applied for by the Town of Craftsbury, but the Care Center will be doing the work. A grant administrator is needed. A public hearing has to be warned 15 days before the Select Board can approve, thus it needs to be warned by October 4th.

Kim said tonight's meeting is for the Town to be willing to apply for the grant. She explained the grant money definitely exists and it doesn't turn into a loan. The money from the Cares Act is specific for projects such as this one. Once the work is done, it should be closed out quickly. Some of the info has to be inputted through the town, but the Care Center will be handling most of the paperwork.

The Select Board scheduled the Hearing to be October 19th.

Bruce made a motion to approve Craftsbury Community Care Center's request for the Town of Craftsbury's support to apply for Community Development Block Grant Cares Act Public Facility Funding (CDBG-CV) from the State of Vermont, seconded by Susan. Motion passed.

The Select Board scheduled the Hearing to be October 19th. Kim expects the information to be here at the Town by October 4th.

- **Action** - Approve Trails Grant-Matt Krebs, Trails Committee
Matt was absent. Susan will check with Matt to see if he plans to attend an upcoming Select Board meeting.
- **Update** - NEK Community Broadband - Rudy Chase
Rudy handed the Select Board the press release from NEK Broadband (see attached). He explained the extensive process of interviewing, answering questionnaires and site visits. The Communications Union District, at a NEK Broadband board meeting, approved a joint partnership with Mission Broadband, the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) and Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT). Rudy said NRTC specializes in stringing fiber, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom will handle customer service, Champlain Valley Telephone will handle billing. Rudy was impressed that it with their customer service and pleased it will be a Vermont company. They hope to start end of 2022.
- **Discussion** - Speed on Mill Village Road - Chris & Kathy Rabe
Chris said they live at 1105 Mill Village Road, at the intersection, before turning right up the Outdoor Center. Traffic and speeding have increased dramatically. Already one serious accident, many near misses at the intersection. Because the road has been raised up over the years, there is limited site line visibility at the intersection.

Bruce said the reason for raising up the Mill Village Road up, is because it has had so

much clay. It gets slippery during mud season.

Linda appreciated Chris and Kathy being here on the agenda. She commented it can be terrifying at times, riding her horse. She has to pick the best time to ride. She suggested contacting the Outdoor Center to message more to their visitors. Penelope commented that the Outdoor Center's does mention it in their newsletters and the coaches also mention it as well.

Susan remarked that it has been a town wide issue, with no enforcement. She raised, how can we all help each other and be a safe place to travel.

The Select Board discussed several options. Jim will try to get a portable radar sign from the State. Chris said he will try and record numbers from the radar machine. They will also look in getting an intersection sign. Bruce will ask the State police to stop by as well.

- **Action** - Decide Repairing Furnace or Purchasing New Furnace
Jim explained that when the town had both furnaces cleaned, roughly it will cost \$6,000 for repairs or \$12,000 for a new propane. Newer piping is pvc, which will last longer. After discussion. **Brice made a motion to purchase a new propane heater, Susan seconded, motion passed.** Price will approximately be \$12,000 plus \$500 for connection to oil furnace to go out the chimney.
- **Action** - Planning for Public Meeting to Discuss ARPA Dollars
Bruce said Katie is busy right now trying to figure out how to be most efficient to get ARPA dollars. The Select Board will keep this on for the next agenda.
- **Action** - Approve Amended Craftsbury VLCT Social Media Policy
Michelle had a couple corrections for Craftsbury's Social Media Policy. After discussion, Susan made a motion to approve the amended Craftsbury VLCT Social Media Policy, seconded and passed. The Selected Board signed the policy. Michelle will post to the website.
- **Discussion** - Town Fair
Michelle said the Town Fair will be available by video afterwards. She will confirm how long it will be available. Bruce will be there in person September 29th. If town groups want to watch a specific topic, can set up on the big tv at the Town Hall.
- **Update** - Wylie Hill Road Speed Limit Sign - Margie Ramsdell
Steve Marckres is working on getting a 35 mph sign back up on Wylie Hill Road.
- **Update** - Loader Options
The Road Crew has tested the John Deer, now trying out the Volvo.

- [Update - Town Hall Painting and Outside Repairs](#)

There was discussion for Jeff Fellingner, a window specialist, to repair the top window over the Town Hall office next year.

The Select Board also discussed putting new clapboards on the right side of Town Hall. They will ask for a written quote.

They will ask Chris to come back, so the windows and front door can be opened after painting.

- [Update - Placing Ad VLCT for Used Safe in Town Hall](#)

Bruce had placed in August, should be out in their recent newsletter.

- [Update - Signage Big Hosmer](#)

Bruce said the Fire Department is now working on the signage.

- [Update - Young Bridge Status](#)

Bruce said he talked to Donny at the Outdoor Center, may assist in making the bridge more sound. They will also be talking to the Youngs ahead of time.

- [Update - Scheduling VLCT Meeting to Discuss ARPA Funds](#)

The Select Board already discussed above.

- [Committee Reports](#)

- [New Member Conservation Commission](#)

Susan said 2 potential members, the Conservation Commission hasn't chosen which one to recommend to the Select Board. Susan said the Conservation Commission gave a great report on the monitoring of Little Hosmer. They mentioned the roadside ash inventory. Jared is busy at the moment, Bruce suggested waiting until Jared is ready, still have a 5-year window. Susan noted the heartfelt bench dedication for Steve Wright earlier this month.

- [Energy Committee-Window Dresser Project & request new member Catherine Cusack...](#)

Susan made a motion to add Sten Seemann, Craig Taylor and Catherine Cusack to the Energy Committee, seconded and moved.

Susan said the window dresser project went ahead this past week with Kevin, Ned & Craig working at 3-4 houses daily with only households feeling comfortable. 87 windows are paying full fare, 59 given away so far, maybe another 25. The grant is \$2,000 but may cost maybe another \$500 more. After discussion, the Select Board decided to take out of the Committee Funds. Susan will let them know.

- Clerk Report

Yvette mentioned that tax money is coming in as usual.

May 3, 2021, the Town Received \$67,732.57 FEMA funds.

August 9, 2021, the Town received \$59,974.40 FEMA funds.

August 19, 2021, the Town received \$61,556.40 ARPA funds.

September 3, 2021, the Town received \$114,212.10 for their county portion of the ARPA funds.

- Road Foreman's Report

Bruce reported that the town crew is ditching. Susan mentioned she and Ned added additional ditching stones to the diagonal culvert located on her property, which should help with water quality.

- Other Business & Walk-ins that have business to come before the Select Board

- Penelope reported that she is working with Emily Brodsky to set up a textile recycling collection. They would like to use the Common, Saturday, Oct. 16th, put up tents outside of the gazebo. Trucks will take everything away that day. The Select Board thought it was a good idea. Penelope will be filling out a Use of the Common form.
- Susan wanted to make sure to put in the minutes that the first ARPA payment has come in already to the town, approximately \$61,000.
- Yvette said someone called to let the Select Board know there isn't signage near Hatchbrook/Brook Road. After discussion, Bruce will call them back. It may be located in Wolcott.

- Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn

Next meeting is scheduled 7 PM on October 5, 2021, at Craftsbury Town Hall. The Hearing is scheduled October 19th. The Select Board meeting will be the following Tuesday, October 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Warren, Select Board Clerk