

***TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
7 PM at Craftsbury Town Hall***

Present: Bruce Urie, Jim Jones, Susan Houston, Michelle Warren, Stark Biddle, Kevin Gregoire, Brian Machesney, Heidi Krantz, Louise Calderwood, Lise Erickson, Alan Turnbull, Phil Lovely & Melissa Jacobs.

SELECT BOARD AGENDA:

- **Action** - Adjustments/Changes to Agenda
Energy Micro-grid discussion with Kevin Gregoire added as well as an update from the ash inventory project with Brian Machesney.

- **Action** - Approve Minutes
Bruce made a motion to approve the February 1, 2022 minutes as printed, Susan seconded. All aye, motion passed.

- **Action** - ARPA Working Group Discussion & Appointment
Susan started the conversation stating that this is an incredibly rare opportunity for federal funding coming to our municipality. Potential members introduced themselves. Susan explained this will be a regular town committee but has a beginning and an end. As of now, funds will need to be obligated by 2024, spent by year 2026. First mission is understanding the ins and outs of ARPA. Also develop plan, think big and broad, engage our community, see what other communities are doing. Susan continued, to wear the lens of our community, see what categories fit our little town. VLCT Katie Buckley and NVDA Annie Mclean are great resources. Kevin Gregoire, Heidi Krantz, Louise Calderwood, Alan Turnbull, L Lise Erickson, Phil Lovely and Stark Biddle agreed to be on the ARPA Committee. Mabel Houghton, Gina Campoli, Rudy Chase, Vince O'Connell who were unable to attend tonight's meeting, will also be asked. L Lise has agreed to co-chair the committee, still need another co-chair. Melissa agreed to be brought as needed. Melissa suggested also some younger members as well. Bruce suggested having a fire department member on too. He also mentioned to choose the standard allowance, under 2 million dollars claim. Susan pointed out using the Town Plan and Community Visit for reference.

- **Discussion** – Micro Grid with Kevin Gregoire
Kevin was requesting permission to look into researching micro-grid options in Craftsbury. Kevin said Vince O'Connell was passionate about this project and an incredible resource. They discussed possibility of a large-scale battery for the Academy Emergency Shelter. For the 2 million dollar grant, 20% would be needed by the town and/or other partners such as Sterling College or the Academy. Kevin discussed possibly using of some of the ARPA funds for this project with some of the funds coming

back toward weatherization. Susan commented there are many projects, such as housing, that all need to be looked into for the ARPA funds.

Although the Select Board to researching the micro-grid, Bruce had concerns that with an April deadline for a letter of intent, much would still need to be done including a separate Town vote, which takes 30 days for a warning. Bruce said it needs to be sustainable, will need numbers, facts, a lot has to happen first. Susan thanked Kevin and the committee for putting so much energy in this. Vince is passionate about the project, great with numbers.

- Discussion – Ash Inventory, Brian Machesney
Brian said that both he and Rob Libby are investigating potential problems and questions regarding the ash tree inventory. Brian requested to change from an ad-hoc committee to an ad hoc group instead, which the Select Board agreed with. Since it is just a group, they will come to the Select Board with updates and decisions. Brian said they hope to have a small pilot project starting the spring of 2022 and the inventory project starting in 2023.
- Action - Broadband Update from Rudy Chase, Document Signature Requested
Bruce made a motion to revise the NEK CUD appointment with Rudy Chase now being first choice, Katherine Sims second choice and Brian Machesney third choice. Seconded, all aye, motion passed. Bruce signed the document. Susan mentioned Invitation to NEK Broadband Town Hall on February 24th.
- Action - Finalize Warning for Town Meeting Informational Hearing
Jim motion to approve the warning for the Town Meeting Informational Hearing. Seconded and moved.

For representatives, the Select Board stated they can make a brief statement and take questions at the non-binding business section of the hearing.

- Action -Town Common Permit Request
Bruce made a motion to approve a Town Common Permit request for a Renaissance Fair April 30th, Susan seconded, all ayes, motion passed. Michelle will let them know it has been approved.
- Discussion - Select Board Clerk Position
Michelle will put out a notice on FPF and also Facebook regarding the Select Board Clerk opening.
- Decision - Antiques & Uniques for 2022
Bruce made a motion to not hold Antiques and Uniques for 2022, because of the high numbers of covid in January (when planning needed to begin). Susan seconded, all

eyed, motion passed.

- Weight Permits
The Select Board had signed weight permits for Sanford & Sons Water Wells, Hillcrest Trucking & Storage Inc. and Barrett Trucking.
- Committee Reports
Both Kevin G. and Brian M. gave reports (above).
- Clerk Report
 - *The Select Board Reviewed and approved Upcoming Bills
 - *The Select Board reviewed the 2022 P & L for January
 - *Michelle said both N2N Grants from New England Grassroots Env. Fund, one for \$4000 (Grow Grant) and another for \$5100 (Young Leader Grant) have been received.
- Road Foreman Report
Bruce remarked the town crew is keeping things up, sanded today.
- Other Business & Walk-ins that have business to come before the Select Board
 - *Upcoming Meeting with Eric Pope, District #9, Agency of Transportation is scheduled Monday, March 14th at 9 AM. Bruce will bring down paperwork and also ask Steve Marckres to attend.

Michelle said regular blue masks have arrived for the public. Michelle will offer to the stores, etc.

- Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM. Next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Town Hall at 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Warren
Craftsbury Select Board Clerk