

**VOLUNTOWN SELECTMANS MEETING
March 10, 2020**

Meeting	The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the Voluntown Town Hall. Ms. Hanson, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Selectmen Present	Tracey Hanson, Ronald Millovitsch, Mark Oulton
Town Officials	None
Citizens Present	Edward Zynko, Jim Uccello
Approval of Minutes	A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 25, 2020. Motion Approved.
Citizens Comments	None
Motion	A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to move the Public Works Plow Truck to the top of the agenda under New Business. Motion approved.
PW Plow Truck	Mr. Zynko and Mr. Uccello presented their plan for the proposed plow truck to replace an existing truck that is now thirteen years old. The new lease plan includes a warranty and maintenance plan for seven years. At that time, we can buy the truck outright for the remainder of the lease or turn it in for a new one. Freightliner will need a letter of intent from the First Selectmen to move forward with the purchase.
Boards & Committee	
Budget FY 19/20	The Town budget is on target for the fiscal year 20/21. We are expecting a few more expenses for the Town Garage to pay for the engineering and consultant expense. The tax collector requested a scanner and new equipment to upgrade processing payments. The Selectmen approved the expense.
Budget FY 20/21	The next budget year is looking at a cut from the Education Cost Sharing by \$89,346. The grand list did go up and this will help offset any increases to the mil rate. This budget year the Selectmen are looking at an increase in Public works to replace a plow truck and to change the part time public works position to full time. There is a cost of living increase of 2.5% to help offset any increased costs to employees. There is also the possibility that the school may be requesting more funds for the FY 19/20. The State budget at this point was approved last year. It is possible there will be a few small changes to the State Budget.
Correspondence & Announcements	
Covid-19	Ms. Hanson had a conference call with the governor, EMS directors and other Selectmen/Mayors. The governor has declared a public health emergency and a civil preparedness emergency. The town is working with the State and the Department of public health. The School is working with other Superintendents to decide on whether to close the school. The governor has suggested cancelling any activities with over 100 people. The process now is to minimize the impact and to slow the spread of the Coronavirus. The Superintendent is working out how to do school remotely, but they need to consider union contracts, special education and 504 plans and the state would need to change statutes in order to allow this to happen. The State would also need to change the 180-day requirement for schools to close. Right now, they would need to make up the time over April vacation or by June 30.

The State needs to know if there are any statutory or regulatory requirements that need to be waived in light of events for the Coronavirus. There are primary elections that are coming up and there are statutes regarding accepting absentee ballots that may need to be changed.

The town will need a pandemic plan ready for funding. The Town has an emergency operations plan on file now, but it will need to be updated to include the pandemic. The town has made sure everyone has a backup person to make sure everything can continue to run if someone gets sick. The Town clerk has planned to partner with Griswold if we need another Town clerk to accept our absentee ballots.

State of CT	The State Capitol Complex will be closed on Thursday and Friday for cleaning.
Uncas Health	Uncas Health sent a flyer on how to prepare for the Covid-19 pandemic.
Edward Wisniewski	Mr. Wisniewski sent a letter to the state of CT DOT, the Town of Voluntown and the Town of North Stonington expressing his concerns about the dead and dying trees throughout the State specifically on 49, 165 and 184 and the potential life-threatening impact they could have on the roadways. Ms. Hanson called the DOT and they are currently working on cutting trees on 49 so they are addressing the issue.
Troop E Montville	The CT State Police Troop E in Montville sent their report for calls made for the month of February. There were 2 accidents, 1 criminal investigation, 26 non-reportable matters, 16 traffic citations and 6 written warnings.
Friends of Pachaug	The Friends of Pachaug are having a S'mores, Friends & Memories event at the Tamarack Lodge on May 16, 2020 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm.
CT Water	CT Water is asking for the Town to appoint a representative to serve on their Customer Advisory Council.
AngelRide	AngelRide sent a request for a permit to use the roads for their annual charity bicycle ride on May 23, 2020.
DRS	The Department of Revenue Services sent out the 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposal application for distribution to interested organizations.

Old Business

School Zone Signs	Ms. Hanson has been looking into the school zone signs on main street. The current signs if fixed would be constantly blinking. The State has a different style and Ms. Hanson will request a plan to have the signs updated. The Town will have to pay for the new signage.
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New Business

Paving Bid	The Selectmen are working on their paving bid for next year. Right now they are doing a study on the drainage for Wylie School Road South before they can put it out to bid.
Elderly Commission	The Selectmen are looking for people who would like to be on the Elderly Commission. Anyone interested in being on the Commission would need to send a letter to the Selectmen requesting to be appointed to the Commission.
Beaver Dams	Ms. Hanson is working with the State to get a Beaver Trapper Special permit for Bailey Pond but first she needs to figure out the owner of the pond. The trapping must be done by the end of March.
Tax Refunds	A motion was made by M. Oulton/R. Millovitsch to approve a tax refund as submitted by the Tax Collector for Makayla McGrath. Motion Approved.

- Tax Suspense** The Tax collector submitted a list of uncollectable taxes to the Selectmen that need to be placed in suspense. A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to approve the Tax suspense list. Motion Approved.
- Affordable Housing** The Selectman need to have an affordable housing plan in place. This is one of the reasons the Town needs a town planner to work on the Affordable Housing Plan that the State is requiring. Ms. Hanson read the resolution that gives her the authority to submit the grant application. A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to approve the resolution as written. Motion Approved.

Suggestions for Next Meeting –None

Adjournment

Motion A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. Motion Approved.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved for distribution by:

Julie L. Zelinsky, Admin. Asst. to the BOS

Tracey Hanson, First Selectman