

**VOLUNTOWN SELECTMANS REGULAR MEETING
December 8, 2020**

- Meeting** The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. Ms. Hanson, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Selectmen Present** Tracey Hanson, Ronald Millovitsch, Mark Oulton
- Town Officials** Joseph Grenier, Joseph Gileau. Tim Adams
- Approval of Minutes** A motion was made by M. Oulton/R. Millovitsch to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 24, 2020. Motion Approved.
- Citizens Comments** None
- Motion** A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to add Recreation Commission Appointment to New Business. Motion Approved.
- Correspondence & Announcements**
- DECD** The Town received the Certificate of Approved Program Cost and State Funding from DECD that stated the approved cost of the Public Works Garage STEAP Contract in the amount of \$500,000.00 had been satisfied.
- LHS** The LHS company that makes the acuvote machines used in elections is going out of business and the cost of maintaining the machines will increase to \$225.00 per machine per year.
- Troop E Montville** The CT State Police Troop E in Montville sent their report for calls made for the month of October. There were 3 accidents, 2 criminal investigations, 17 non-reportable matters, 3 traffic citations and 3 written warnings.
- Troop E Montville** The CT State Police Troop E in Montville sent their report for calls made for the month of November. There were 3 accidents, 3 criminal investigations, 1 burglary, 37 non-reportable matters, 4 traffic citations and 2 written warnings.
- DEEP** The Town requested a permit to trap beavers at Baily Pond and the dam because of the flooding. The DEEP says we must get permission from the pond owner. DEEP has someone on record as owning the pond. Ms. Hanson checked with the Assessor and the Tax collector and the Town does not have anyone on record as owning the pond. It's possible it could be someone from the RI side of the pond.
- Boards & Committee**
- Finance Report FY 21** The Collection of taxes so far this year is up from last year despite the restrictions from Covid and the state allowing people to defer payment for three months.
The school will receive approximately \$176,000 from the State to cover Covid expenses from FY 19/20 and 20/21. They received \$41,189.37 for FY 19/20 and will receive \$135,449.63 for FY 20/21. This amount is a reimbursable grant which means the school must pay the expenses up front and then get reimbursed. Because of this, the Town will have to transfer the money to the Federal & State School grant program to cover the expenses. Once the school submits the expenses the State will reimburse the Town. A motion was made by M. Oulton/ R. Millovitsch to approve the transfer of \$135,449.63 to the Federal & State Grant School Program. Motion Approved.
The Town received \$14,392.00 for Covid expenses for FY 19/20 and will receive a second amount that has not been determined yet. The total amount of Covid expenses the Town has had this fiscal year is approximately \$12,240.

FY 20/21 The Budget packets to all Boards and Commissions will be distributed next week along with the timeline for the Budget preparation for FY 21/22. The Timeline may be adjusted due to Covid reasons.

Old Business

COVID-19 Update The Town is currently in the Orange Alert Level. Less than 5 people testing positive for the Coronavirus keeps the Town in the grey. The current amount of cases so far is 5. If the Town receives two more cases by Thursday, that will put the Town back into Red Alert Level.

Clear Gov Proposal Mr. Oulton asked how the information was stored on the Clear Gov site and how the Town would have access to the information if the Town no longer decided to use them. Clear Gov stated that all information can be downloaded into a pdf. The only thing you would lose is the digital budget. Mr. Millovitsch wants to check with other Towns for a recommendation before moving forward.

Public Meeting Policy Ms. Hanson tabled this item to the next Selectmen's meeting.

New Business

PS Reimbursement Ordinance Mr. Grenier and Mr. Gileau spoke to the Selectmen regarding the issues they are having with overnight calls and the extra time needed to clean the ambulance after every call due to COVID. They would like the reimbursement ordinance to be revised since it has not been revised in since 2008. They are looking into incentives for the volunteers to respond to calls. Since it requires a 3-hour cleaning time after every call due to COVID it has been difficult to get people to respond. Ms. Hanson stated the Selectmen will work on getting the ordinance updated as soon as possible.

Tax Refunds A motion was made by M. Oulton/R. Millovitsch to approve the Tax refunds as submitted by the Tax collector to JP Morgan Chase Bank, Robert Sirpenski, Kelsie Vanwormer, Jeanne Hamton and Joyce Lord-Jakobsen. Motion Approved.

Legislative Issues Ms. Hanson attended a meeting through CCM. Some of the legislative issues that are being discussed are broadband internet issues, a police accountability mandate, MBR-minimum budget requirement for the BOE, legal notices and unfunded mandates, municipal solid waste management, how to offset dependence on taxes, regionalization, and stormwater management.

Ordinances The Selectmen are working on new ordinances for the town. The Public Safety Ordinance and the Driveway Permit Ordinance needs updating, The Selectmen are working on a Town Clerk ordinance to make this a hired position. This job is a highly skilled job that needs several years of training to be certified. The Selectmen have no recourse if someone is elected and does not do the job properly. The Selectmen are working on No Wake Ordinance for Beach Pond, Special Events Ordinance and a Drainage Ordinance. These Ordinances will be discussed at the next meeting when the final ordinance are completed. We have a company called eCode that is reviewing all the Town Ordinances and suggesting updates as needed. It is a long process for the Selectmen to do. eCode will be able to update all of them at once and these changes will be ready to be voted on by the public at the next Annual Meeting. eCode will also organize the Town Ordances and publish them online so anyone can get access to them.

PH Dates The Selectmen will hold a public Hearing for the residents to discuss the above ordinances. This will go to a Town Vote for approval. The Selectmen are still working out how to do a vote during COVID. The Suggested dates are Tuesday February 9th for the Public Hearing with a Selectmen's meeting to follow. The Town Meeting would be Thursday, February 18 with a possible drive through vote on Saturday February 20, 2020 depending on COVID restrictions.

Snow Policy The Selectmen discussed the current snow policy. The Selectmen discussed a parking ban in Town during storms to make it easier for the plows to get through. The other issue is basketball hoops on Town Roads need to be removed. Ms Hanson publish this online and it was sent out in the Town Newsletter.

Appt to the

Recreation Commission A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to appoint Dean Wittwer to the Voluntown Recreation Commission. Motion Approved.

IT Contracts

Mr. Oulton requested copies of the current IT contracts that the Town currently has for review.

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Suggestions for Next Meeting –Zoom Policy, Ordinances

Adjournment

Motion

A motion was made by M. Oulton/R. Millovitsch to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. Motion Approved.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved for distribution by:

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

Tracey Hanson, First Selectman