

**VOLUNTOWN SELECTMANS REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 9, 2021**

<b>Meeting</b>	The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was a hybrid meeting held in person and via Zoom on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Ms. Hanson, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
<b>Selectmen Present</b>	Tracey Hanson, Ronald Millovitsch, Mark Oulton
<b>Town Officials</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 23, 2021. Motion Approved.
<b>Citizens Comments</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Arthur Nieminen</b>	Mr. Nieminen spoke to the Selectmen about the following topics: his disapproval of the availability of the Selectmen, the DOT needs to be notified that there are dead trees on 49 North that need to be removed, he complimented the Public Works on the plowing but they need to slow down, he is not in favor of zoom meetings, he is not in favor of the Town Clerk ordinance, he inquired about the missing railings and windows at the Wylie school house, he wanted to know when the Wylie School would be painted, he questioned the line item about for Wylie School in last year's budget, he accused the Town of taking \$4,000 from the Historical Society, he stated that he did not agree with the town paying for the overage and that the project started late because the ground was frozen so the contractor should cover the cost. He spoke about his disappointment in his revaluation going up. He requested a copy of the Grand List for last year and this year, a copy of last year's budget and the minutes to this meeting.
<b>Correspondence &amp; Announcements</b>	
Bennett Circle	Mr. LaFrazza thanked the Public Works and the Selectmen for a tree that was removed near his property. The tree was rotted inside and was on danger of falling on his house.
<b>Boards &amp; Committee</b>	
<b>B&amp;C Openings</b>	Currently there are openings on the following Boards and Commissions. If you would like to volunteer please call the Town Hall or send an email to <a href="mailto:jzelinsky@voluntown.gov">jzelinsky@voluntown.gov</a> . Economic Development Commission has three alternate positions, The Voluntown Sterling Transfer Station has one alternate position and the Library Board of Trustees has one opening.
<b>Old Business</b>	
<b>COVID – 19</b>	The cases of COVID have been declining. There were 2 cases last week and 1 case this week which puts the Town in the gray alert level. The Governor has announced plans for easing up on some of the restrictions due to covid. Currently those 55 and older, health care workers, educators and childcare workers are eligible to receive the vaccine.
<b>New Business -Action</b>	
PS Reim. Ordinance	Ms. Hanson stated that before they could repeal the Public Works Volunteer Reimbursement Ordinance a public hearing must be held. The Selectmen will hold a public hearing prior to the next Special Town Meeting and add it to the Special Town Meeting to be voted on.

- PW Garage** The Town Attorney wrote a resolution stating the Executive Orders allow the Selectmen to approve the Public Works Garage appropriation. Ms. Hanson read the resolution. A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to approve the resolution to appropriate \$23,246.95 from the unassigned fund to the Public Works Garage Fund. Motion Approved.
- Fuel Bid** Ms. Hanson read the fuel bid. A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to approve the fuel bid. Motion Approved.
- Pay Rates** Ms. Hanson spoke to the Fire department about the pay rates for the paid staff. It was agreed to raise the rates to be competitive with the surrounding towns. The Paid Day Staff will receive \$20.00 per hour and the Paid Lead Staff member will receive \$22.00. The Selectmen discussed the pay rates for the Registrar of voters. They discussed keeping the pay rate the same as the rate they receive when holding an election rather than having two separate pay rates. This is consistent with how Registrars are paid in the surrounding towns.
- A motion was made by M. Oulton/R. Millovitsch to approve the new pay rates for the Paid Day Staff at the firehouse, the paid Lead Day Staff, the Registrar of Voters and the Deputy Registrar of Voters. Motion Approved.

**New Business - Discussion**

**Legislative Update/Budget**

Ms. Hanson testified on the bill that changed how PILOT money will be appropriated to Towns. It changes the current formula to a Tiered formula. Ms. Hanson asked that all towns where the state owns more than 50% of the land be automatically included in Tier 1. The House and the Senate approved the bill with the change and will now go on to be approved in the State Budget. This could give the Town of Voluntown an increase in PILOT money.

The Selectmen discussed another bill that has been proposed that would allow local governments to offer municipal broadband to residents. The Town would have to contract out to a company that would provide broadband services. This would allow competition for the current services currently offered in Voluntown.

- Town Meeting** The Selectmen discussed how to proceed with the Special Town Meeting. The Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 10am following the Public Hearing on the Public Safety Volunteer Reimbursement Ordinance. Ms. Hanson spoke to the Superintendent and the school requested any meeting be held on a Saturday to give the staff time to clean before school is back in session. Ms., Hanson read the call of the meeting. This would allow residents to vote in person to have people zoom into the meeting from home and vote by a poll. For those who will use zoom them must register for the meeting and will be required to show proof that they are a registered voter or property owner in town before being allowed into the zoom meeting.
- A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to approve the call of Special Town Meeting. Motion Approved.

**Suggestions for Next Meeting –**

**Adjournment**

- Motion** A motion was made by M. Oulton/R. Millovitsch to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Motion Approved.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved for distribution by:

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

Tracey Hanson, First Selectman