

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

July 12, 2021

**REGULAR MEETING
Howard Barton, Jr. Conference Room**

6:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Schmidt, Chairman Justin Hyjek
Scott Baitz Brett Sanderson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Heather Tucker

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Murphy Jeannie Stasz Terry Thayne

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Alic Carol Lighthall Rosie Stoltze
Art Ciasca Gary MacIntyre Venissa White
Mary Ciasca Faith Miele Patrick Cody (Okemo Valley-TV)
Jacalyn Diesenhouse Ryan Silvestri

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Bruce Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSIDERATION OF ANY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR REMOVALS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Bruce Schmidt said that the board will address Agenda Item 12 after Agenda Item 4 – Comments from Citizens.
B. **NOTE: Minutes are in order of agenda item number.**

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. Bruce Schmidt advised that the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of June 7, 2021.
B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Justin Hyjek to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 7, 2021 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

A. Cameras at West Hill

- i. Venissa White said that the Summer Program for the schools needs to know where the cameras will be located, what time they will be on and who will have access to them. It is a matter of confidentiality for the students.
- ii. Scott Murphy said the cameras are being installed for security. He said there has been damage done in the past. There will be 1 camera inside the building and 3 to 4 on the outside, facing the driveway, pond and grassy area.
- iii. Justin Hyjek asked who will monitor the cameras.
- iv. Bruce Schmidt said there will be recordings for review and both Kevin McPherson and Scott Murphy will have access.
- v. Venissa White said that she was not told that there would be cameras. She said that this is a state licensed program and will need signed permission slips from all of the parents to allow videos of the students. She said that surveillance of children is different from security.
- vi. Bruce Schmidt said that this is a town property and he said there that it is not an issue using the town property and it should not be an issue with the town putting cameras on our property.
- vii. Venissa White said had she known, they would have moved the program. She needs to know who sees the videos. It's like putting a camera in the "principal's office." She has to answer to the Agency of Education. We had a Memorandum of Understanding and this was not included.
- viii. Scott Murphy said that he notified her by email about the cameras. He added that when the schools rent space in the High School building or Community Center, there are cameras there. There are no cameras in the bathrooms.
- ix. Venissa White said that every parent has to be notified and give written permission for the Town of Ludlow to videotape while the students are there.
- x. Scott Baitz asked if they could unplug the cameras when the students are present. He asked when the program ends.
- xi. Venissa White said August 6th.
- xii. Scott Murphy said the cameras could be shut off during the program hours.
- xiii. Justin Hyjek asked if they could leave the outside cameras on and turn off the inside cameras.
- xiv. Bruce Schmidt said that the program includes more than Ludlow students, it includes students from other towns. We don't need to ask people for permission to put up things on our property. He is surprised that this is an issue.
 - xv. Brett Sanderson said that the schools have been monitored for years.
 - xvi. Heather Tucker said that the parents do sign permission for schools.
- xvii. Venissa White said that LES does have cameras that are monitored in-house. She said that she contacted the AOE and they will need permission from every parent. She said that she never received an email from Scott Murphy. She said that she has asked about the cameras several time and not received a response.
- xviii. Scott Murphy said they can unplug the inside cameras.
- xix. Heather Tucker asked if there are cameras at Dorsey Park.
- xx. Scott Murphy said yes.
- xxi. Bruce Schmidt said he is surprised that this is an issue and asked Scott Murphy to figure something out.

5. **LIQUOR CONTROL**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that they have one third class license to be renewed. Chief Billings has signed off on it.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Additional Outside</u>
46 Depot Street Annex, LLC	Stemwinder	

- B. **MOTION by Justin Hyjek and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the liquor license renewal for Stemwinders. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Scott Murphy advised that there is also a Special Event Permit for a tasting, at Brewfest on July 23, 2021, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.ms. This was approved by Ulla Cook.

6. **APPOINT DRB MEMBERS**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that the applicants have all submitted their letters of interest including one new candidate. The new candidate does not live in Ludlow, but does own property. He said that all 4 of the others wish to be reappointed. He has spoken to Rose Goings and Phil Carter and they agree with reappointing the current board members. The Candidates and terms listed:

<u>Candidate for 2021</u>	<u>Term</u>
Julie Nicoll	2-year to 2023
John Boehrer	1-year to 2022
Doug Sheehan	1 year to 2022
Julie Bowyer	1 year to 2022
Aaron Fragnito	1 year to 2022

- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Scott Baitz to reappoint DRB members Julie Nicoll, John Boehrer, Doug Sheehan and Julie Bowyer. Motion passed unanimously**
- C. Justin Hyjek expressed thanks to Aaron Fragnito for applying and also to existing DRB members.
- D. Bruce Schmidt said that he has spoken with Rose Goings and Phil Carter about getting some help for DRB members. He said that he has attended (via ZOOM) recent hearings and there has been limited interaction from other board members, most interactions done by Phil Carter and Rose Goings. He asked if there is some training available for DRB members – possibly through VLCT. He said that Phil Carter did ask for comments or questions from other board members and there weren't many. He said that we have some pretty complicated hearings.
- E. Scott Murphy said that he will look into it.

7. **POSSIBLY CONSIDER STEARN'S PIT USE REQUEST FROM SCCA RALLYCROSS ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2021**

- A. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Heather Tucker to approve the request from SCCA to hold a Rallycross at Stearn's Pit on September 4, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. **OKEMO VALLEY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FESTIVAL REQUEST FOR AUGUST 28-29, 2021**

- A. Carol Lighthall advised that the Chamber of Commerce plans to run a “Best of Vermont” Summer Festival on August 28th from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. and on August 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Okemo Fields on Route 103 (by Bixby Road.) The event will be “family-centric” with hopefully 100 vendors. Parking will determine number of people attending. They will find overflow parking. She has spoken to Chief Billings regarding layout and traffic control. She is working on trash management.
- B. Justin Hyjek asked how big the tents will be.
- C. Carol Lighthall said there will be one, possibly 2, 100’ x 40’ tent(s) and pop-ups outside. There also may be a canopy over the music stage. The structure for that will be brought in. All of this will be on one side of the road.
- D. Scott Murphy said that the ordinance sets the fee at \$250 per licensed day. The ordinance also requires bonding at \$1.00 per person attending the event. He asked the projected attendance.
- E. Carol Lighthall said it will be based on parking and overflow parking, but possibly 2,000 to 4,000 is her estimate.
- F. Justin Hyjek asked about parking spaces.
- G. Carol Lighthall said about 500 and if they can move tents around, possibly more.
- H. Justin Hyjek asked if it is marshy down by the river.
- I. Carol Lighthall said there are some holes that will be marked. They will put the hot air balloons by the river where it is flat.
- J. Scott Baitz asked if the Chief (Billings) is okay with this.
- K. Scott Murphy said the Chief will review the plans.
- L. Justin Hyjek asked if this board is just approving the permit request.
- M. Bruce Schmidt asked if this board can waive the fees.
- N. Scott Murphy said yes.
- O. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Scott Baitz to waive the fees and approve request for a permit for the summer festival. Motion passed unanimously.**
- P. Bruce Schmidt asked Scott Murphy to work with Carol Lighthall on this.

9. **VOTE TO ACCEPT ARPA FUNDS & SET UP A SEPARATE FUND TO HANDLE FUNDS**

- A. Scott Murphy explained that the Select Board will have to vote to designate an authorized representative to manage the funds, someone to be contact and also accept the allocation of the funds and the terms and conditions and assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements of the plan. This must be done by July 15th. Scott Murphy said that the Town share would be about \$114,000, \$57,000 to be received within 30 days after the State receives the funds. The second half to be received after the beginning of the next calendar year. The funds must be spent by 2026. He said that there are no requirements. He advised that we will need motions to accept the funds, to appoint an Authorized Representative and a Contact. He said that there are 4 areas where funds may be used. He said that they go back 3 years to calculate lost revenue.
 - Address the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency;
 - Replace lost public sector revenue;

- Provide premium pay for essential workers; and.
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Scott Murphy said that the board needs to appoint Ulla Cook as Authorized Representative and Pam Cook as contact tonight.

- B. Justin Hyjek asked if we are in compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements.
- C. Scott Murphy said yes.
- D. **MOTION by Justin Hyjek and seconded by Brett Sanderson as follows**
- I move that the Town of Ludlow accept its allocation of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) from the U.S. Treasury, along with the Award Terms & Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements that are requirements of accepting these funds.**
 - I move that we appoint Ulla Cook, Town Treasurer as “Authorized Representative” as required by the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) from the U.S. Treasury, to sign the Award Terms & Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements by July 15, 2021.**
 - I move that we name Pamela Cruickshank to be the “Contact Person” for the Town of Ludlow’s CLFRF Award from the U.S. Treasury.**
 - Motion passed unanimously**
- E. Bruce Schmidt asked Scott Murphy to bring back a plan to the board to discuss ideas for use of the funds for their next meeting.
- F. Scott Murphy said that the State is trying to slow down the use activity and recommends that towns use state funding first, then town funds. We don’t have to commit to use to the end of 2024, but must use them by 2026. He said that there may be another source tied into County funding. Vermont was denied this because of our structure of counties. There is a chance we may get more funding.

10. **TOWN CHARTER PROCESS & NEXT STEP**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that there is a brief summary of the charter process in their packets. Changes to the charter can be initiated by the Select Board or by petition.
- The Select Board must hold at least 2 public hearings before the vote – first meeting to be held at least 30 days prior to the vote (Town Meeting or Special Meeting). The second public hearing within 10 days after the first meeting.
 - The Select Board may make changes – after the public hearing if the Charter proposal is from the Select Board. If from petition, they can’t make changes.
 - The Select Board should appoint a Charter Committee to develop and propose Charter goals and language. The Select Board will receive recommendations from the Charter Committee and decide if they will bring it to the voters. After the proposal is approved by the voters, it goes to the State. The State may accept, change or deny the charter.
- Scott Murphy referred to a chart provided by the VLCT. He said that the Legislature approved 2 charter changes and denied 6. We will need to get our legislators behind this if we want to move forward. He noted that Springfield tried to get approval for all changes approved for other towns. They were denied.
- B. Justin Hyjek asked Scott Murphy if he has spoken with our legislators.
- C. Scott Murphy said he spoke to Alice Nitka and she will support it.

- D. Bruce Schmidt asked why Springfield was denied.
- E. Justin Hyjek said because of the language. He added that the attorneys for VLCT are working to upend it.
- F. Scott Murphy said that the state says that you can't have a group of 5 people (the Select Board) decide how the town will be run.
- G. Bruce Schmidt said we should keep moving forward with this.
- H. Scott Murphy said he will approach our legislators. He asked if the board wants to appoint a committee.
- I. Bruce Schmidt said let's wait until next month.
- J. Scott Murphy said it will be a topic for discussion next month.

11. OPTIONS FOR LISTERS' OFFICE

- A. Scott Murphy said that they received in their packets a breakdown of options for the Listers' Office.
 - i. Retain Current Set-up
 - a. 3 elected listers with contracted assistance from consultant
 - ii. Contracted Assessor with Limited Duty Listers – *Recommended Option
 - a. Town contracts with assessor/consultant that will complete all assessing and valuation work. Listers are responsible for approving the Grand List and conducting annual grievances. One of the listers would act as the administrative assistant and hold office hours 3 days per week, contracted assessor would be in the office one full day every 2 weeks and available by appointment.
 - iii. Full Time Town Assessor (requires voter approval)
 - a. Full-time assessor would be an employee of the Town and available 5 days a week, in the office. It would replace the elected listers and require hiring someone with assessor skills and preferably local knowledge.
- B. Justin Hyjek asked how often we do reappraisals.
- C. Ryan Silvestri said the last full one was in 2005 and we did a statistical sampling in 2012. We will need to do the next full one when the CLA starts to waver. The CLA is reset to 100 after a reappraisal. This may be a 5 to 6 year process. We need to see how fast the market corrects itself.
- D. Justin Hyjek asked if the \$42,000 includes reappraisal.
- E. Ryan Silvestri said no, that would be a separate contract.
- F. Justin Hyjek asked what the annual increase is for other towns.
- G. Ryan Silvestri said that depends on the overall increase. We can work out costs and are committed here until 2023.
- H. Justin Hyjek asked what the listers think.
- I. Terry Thayne said they recommend option #2. He said that the number of property transfers and permits is beyond what the office can do alone.
- J. Bruce Schmidt the Select Board needs to give some direction. He thinks they need to vet the full-time assessor. One would be able to do frequent updates and may actually save us money with the tax rate. He added that Stowe has a full-time assessor.
- K. Ryan Silvestri said we would be responsible for annual updates.
- L. Bruce Schmidt said if we went with a contract, we would not have to have reappraisals.
- M. Ryan Silvestri said it is really up to the market. This would give us equity and consistency.
- N. Bruce Schmidt said an assessor would be able to keep track of the market constantly

- O. Ryan Silvestri said it would be on an annual schedule. He said that he went through the entire town for permits and transfers.
- P. Bruce Schmidt said an assessor could continuously monitor and would get most of the properties. It would be more consistent.
- Q. Ryan Silvestri said it would be a cyclical – every 3 to 5 years - schedule of data collection of transfers, new construction and permits. A 5-year cycle would have 1/5 of the properties every 5 years, with 3-year sales study.
- R. Bruce Schmidt said with an assessor there would be fewer huge reappraisals.
- S. Justin Hyjek asked what a 5-year cycle cost.
- T. Ryan Silvestri said that would be a separate contract and he can't present it tonight.
- U. Scott Murphy said they don't have to decide tonight.
- V. Bruce Schmidt said they would have to go to the voters to do an assessor.
- W. Scott Murphy said we have an ongoing contract.
- X. Bruce Schmidt said that Terry Thayne said that the listers need help.
- Y. Scott Murphy said Option #2 would help.
- Z. Terry Thayne said it would only be until 2023 and then they could make the decision about a full-time assessor.
- AA. Ryan Silvestri said it is ongoing, and we made an amendment. It did expire June 30th.
- BB. Scott Murphy said it is an hourly wage.
- CC. Bruce Schmidt said tonight we can vote through 2022 and by then we will have a better idea of what would be best.
- DD. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Scott Baitz to approve Option #2 – Contracted Assessor with limited duty listers for \$53,800 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**
- EE. Justin Hyjek suggested they keep the ball rolling.
- FF. Bruce Schmidt said he agrees to have Ryan Silvestri come back and to still consider a full-time assessor.
- GG. Ryan Silvestri said to call him for any information they need.

12. **COMMONWEALTH AVENUE FEMA FINAL REPORT**

- A. Scott Murphy said that they received the final report from Weston & Sampson. He said that Phase 1 is complete and if approved, they could move to Phase 2. This started with Hurricane Irene in 2011, and since then the costs have escalated. A Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) was calculated at .15 (for the entire project) and as such, this project is not eligible for FEMA funding. All work done to date is covered. There may be some opportunities to do small projects, but he has to talk to Stephanie Smith at the State.
- B. Faith Miele asked if the project was turned down because they tried to do too much. She said that her property is the worst section. Could they do that portion. She said that she suggested that last year.
- C. Scott Murphy said that he has to talk to Stephanie Smith. He said that when this was started, it was a full project and we had a design. The neighbors did not like the design and we had to restart the process.
- D. Faith Miele asked about grants for funding. She said that it doesn't seem to be going anywhere.
- E. Scott Murphy said that he will talk to Stephanie Smith.
- F. Brett Sanderson said we need to try to figure something out.
- G. Justin Hyjek asked if we have done a feasibility study of that section.
- H. Brett Sanderson said no, because we were working with FEMA.

- I. Scott Baitz asked if the waterway is still filled with knotweed.
- J. Scott Murphy said yes.
- K. Faith Miele said that water comes down from the Gill Home parking lot.
- L. Bruce Schmidt suggested possibly doing an RFP to look at options for next month's meeting, ranging from least to most expensive. He said possibly hire the firm who did this report. He said that this board has to decide if we will deal with this. Do we want to make changes for one property owner, but also other properties are impacted. He said that Faith Miele gets the brunt of it. Where do we want to draw the line.
- M. Ryan Silvestri asked if it threatens the road.
- N. Bruce Schmidt said the water just dissipates.
- O. Scott Murphy said he will report back next month.
- P. There was a consensus of the board members to get bids and figure out what we need to do.
- Q. Scott Baitz said that they would need a state permit to get rid of the knotweed.

13. POSSIBLY ADOPT CHANGES TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

- A. Scott Murphy said that they are working on this because of an overlap in language in the Junk and Junk Vehicles ordinances. There are not many changes and the Trustees are waiting to see what the Select Board does. If approved, this would go into effect in 60 days, unless there is a petition.
- B. Bruce Schmidt asked if this has anything about cleaning up.
- C. Justin Hyjek said this is only on Junk.
- D. Scott Murphy said that they have already amended the ordinance to cover situations like the Stone House.
- E. Bruce Schmidt said this will cover old cars and solid waste.
- F. Scott Murphy said it will also allow us to clean it up and bill the property owner.
- G. **MOTION by Justin Hyjek and seconded by Scott Baitz to approve the Solid Waste Management Ordinance as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

14. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

- A. Bruce Schmidt noted that all reports are in. He said that he sees that the Dog Park is coming along.
- B. Scott Murphy said the poles are in and ½ of the fencing is up. He said that we were able to use the fencing donated by VELCO. We will have a grand opening when it is complete.
- C. Justin Hyjek asked how many children are up at West Hill.
- D. Scott Murphy said the numbers fell off after the first couple of weeks.
- E. Scott Baitz said initially it was supposed to be about 75.
- F. Scott Murphy said there are about 30 to 45 now.

15. MUNICIPAL MANAGER UPDATES

- A. Holiday Costs
 - i. Scott Murphy advised that currently have 12 Holidays, 11 days (including 1 floater for Town Meeting Day) and two ½ days for Christmas Eve and Good Friday. With the new

Juneteenth Holiday, do we want to add this additional holiday. The average increase in payroll for a holiday is about \$1,800.

- ii. Bruce Schmidt said that Juneteenth is now a Federal Holiday and should be included. The workers in town work hard. We should consider adding this to the Personnel Manual.
- iii. Scott Murphy said that is great idea.
- iv. **MOTION by Scott Baitz and seconded by Heather Tucker to approve addition of Juneteenth as a Holiday for employees and add it to the Personnel Manual. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Multi-Modal Transit Hub Project

- i. Carol Lighthall advised that they did have a committee meeting and will keep the transparency and engagement with the community. The goals are to create a focus for transportation options and establishing another key attraction within the region. We will continue to look at the goals, assess possible sites, community survey and meetings and adjust plans based on that input, and project funding , implementation and timeline.
- ii. Justin Hyjek asked about possible new sites.
- iii. Carol Lighthall said listed properties along the railroad, but she can't say anything further.
- iv. Bruce Schmidt said that he drove up towards the existing railroad station and it is a mess. He asked who owns it.
- v. Carol Lighthall said the State. She said that in Chester, it is a leased situation, but she doesn't think there is a lease in place here.
- vi. Bruce Schmidt said we should ask Alice Nitka and Logan Nicoll to look into it.
- vii. Scott Murphy said he will check on it.

C. Lake Rescue Association Survey on Paving East Lake Road

- i. Scott Murphy said that the Lake Rescue Association took a survey of its members regarding the paving of East Lake Road. He said that 68% voted yes and people are concerned about speeding.
- ii. Justin Hyjek asked if that would be all of East Lake Road or a portion.
- iii. Scott Murphy said up to Red Bridge Road.
- iv. Justin Hyjek asked if they could put speed bumps there.
- v. Bruce Schmidt said not on that type of road.
- vi. Scott Murphy said that we have East Lake Road as a potential project for next year. This is a hot button item and we need to have a public discussion first. Scott Murphy said that in their letter, the Lake Rescue Association wants 3 additional speed bumps put on Red Bridge Road and they will provide them if the town can't. They would also like reduced speed limits, stop signs at the intersection of Red Bridge and East Lake Roads, and road repair.
- vii. Jim Alic said that the Lake Rescue Association spoke to everyone on Red Bridge Road and 23 of the 27 residences signed the letter. He said that the speed bumps have helped. He said that they originally requested 4 speed bumps (2 on the west side and 2 on the east side.) He said that some people don't like them, but they work. He said that the real concern is safety – for foot traffic and bike traffic. He said that some of the turns are invisible. They also suggest 3 stop signs; one at either end of the bridge and one 3-way sign at the intersection of Red Bridge and East Lake Roads. He said that would help slow traffic. He said that a third of the way down from Route 100, toward Red Bridge, the road is eroded and collapsed. It narrows to about 16 feet and most of the rest is about 20 feet. In the short term, they would like the road repaired, and later to have Red Bridge Road paved.

- viii. Gary MacIntyre said that years ago, there was less traffic and less foot traffic. He said that cars hit their highest speed at the bottom of the hill and end up in the middle of the road, where it is at its narrowest. He said that one car always has to stop. He said that 25 MPH is too high and he suggests lowering the speed limit. He suggested radar traps. He said that they put up with the noise from the speed bumps. He said more and more people are using Red Bridge Road. He said this is strictly about safety. He added that a state trooper, Josselyn Stole, said that it was about this that we got speed bumps. He said that she also said, "This is the most dangerous road of all of the roads I go on." She recommended more speed bumps.
- ix. Justin Hyjek asked if we have data on accidents.
- x. Scott Murphy said there haven't been many accidents there, but there are more people in town now.
- xi. Scott Baitz asked why put stop signs on both ends of the bridge.
- xii. Jim Alic said it is a one-lane bridge and people have to stop, some don't and have to back up.
- xiii. Justin Hyjek asked about swimmers.
- xiv. Gary MacIntyre said there are a lot and it got worse after the pandemic. He added that there are also more rentals and the renters put tents in the yards.
- xv. Jacalyn Diesenhouse said they even play football at the bridge.
- xvi. Gary Mac Intyre said that he hasn't seen any speed surveillance, but the road can't handle 25 MPH. He said that you can see the traffic speed up at the top of the hill and end up in the middle of the road. If you lower the speed limit, but there is no police enforcement, it's no good. We need to have police presence.
- xvii. Brett Sanderson asked if we could use the Village radar speed sign.
- xviii. Scott Murphy said he will ask Jeff Billings.
- xix. Jim Alic said it is impossible to stay on the road at 25 MPH.
- xx. Brett Sanderson said we need to make an investment. We can monitor the road to see what the speed limits should be.
- xxi. Gary MacIntyre said that he wouldn't mind going without the speed bumps if the speed limit were lower. He said the town bought 2 sections of bumps, but that only makes up one speed bump. He said that Scott Murphy said it is not in the budget.
- xxii. Scott Murphy said he had said that they would reevaluate the situation.
- xxiii. Gary MacIntyre said he has and is willing to donate to the Town 3 more speed bumps, but they must be used on Red Bridge Road.
- xxiv. Scott Murphy said that he has talked with Chief Billings and it is almost impossible to keep at 25 MPH. He added that there are not many accidents there. He added that he has received complaints about the speed bumps. He said that the Select Board may change the speed limit.
- xxv. Bruce Schmidt asked if Chief Billings may be able to help determine what the speed limit should be.
- xxvi. Gary MacIntyre said we have the bumps and can take them up in the winter.
- xxvii. Jacalyn Diesenhouse said it's just as bad in the winter and is icy. We should keep the speed bumps in place.
- xxviii. Jim Alic said that they have asphalt speed bumps in Sierra and in the winter the plows can go over them. They are higher and wider than the ones we have.
- xxix. Gary MacIntyre said if we put the additional ones in now, we have until November to see how they work on the west side of the road.
- xxx. Justin Hyjek asked about the fallen tree in the water and is that a safety issue.
- xxxi. Gary MacIntyre said that is state property and we are not allowed to move it.

- xxxii. Jacalyn Diesenhouse said that the state does know about the tree and we are not allowed to touch anything in the water. She was told that by Marie Caduto from the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation.
- xxxiii. Scott Baitz said that he understands their position, but there are at least a half-dozen places in town that could use speed bumps, including West Hill where he lives. He said that they are not the only place with problems in town.
- xxxiv. Justin Hyjek said that at one time, there was discussion about lowering the speed limit on Main Street.
- xxxv. Gary MacIntyre said there are more kids on Red Bridge that ever before.
- xxxvi. Bruce Schmidt said that the board cannot take action tonight because it is not an agenda item. The board has heard their concerns, but we have to decide where to draw the line. If we put them in one area, others may also want them and we can't have speed bumps all over town.

D. Stone House Rubble

- i. Scott Murphy said that Troy Caruso is purchasing the parcel, but has not closed on it yet. At the Trustees' last meeting, he discussed clearing the lot and making a parking lot with a possible lease to the Town. Nothing is definite at this point.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Town Clerk Recommendation for Homestead Declaration

- i. Scott Murphy said that Ulla Cook has recommended waiving the late fee for filing Homestead Declarations.
- ii. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Scott Baitz to accept the recommendation from Ulla Cook and waive the late fee for filing Homestead Declarations. Motion passed unanimously.**

17. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING & POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Scott Murphy said the next regular meeting would be August 2, 2021.
- B. Set Date to set FY2022 Tax Rate & Review Unassigned Funds
 - i. Scott Murphy said that they will need to meet during the week of July 25th to set the tax rate.
 - ii. Bruce Schmidt said it could be done by phone for anyone who can't make the meeting in person.

18. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Healthcare Deductible & Premium Contributions by Staff
- B. Unassigned Funds

19. SIGN WARRANT ORDERS

- A. Bruce Schmidt said that warrant orders have been signed.

20. **POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION/PERSONNEL/CONTRACTS/LEGAL**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that an Executive Session is needed for Contracts 1 VSA § 313 (a) (3) – Evaluation of Employees.
- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Heather Tucker to enter into Executive Session for Personnel Evaluations. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Board entered into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.
- D. Board exited Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.
- E. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Justin Hyjek to approve salary increases as recommended by Municipal Manager. Motion passed unanimously**

21. **ADJOURN**

- A. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Heather Tucker to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Bruce Schmidt, Chairman

Brett Sanderson

Scott Baitz

Heather Tucker

Justin Hyjek