**JOINT BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

**Rockingham Selectboard & Bellows Falls Village Trustees**

**Tuesday June 29, 2021**

Present:

Rockingham Selectboard: Rick Cowan, Susan Hammond, Bonnie North, Elijah Zimmer and Peter Golec, Chair

Bellows Falls Trustees: Jeff Dunbar, Wade Masure, Jim McAuliffe and Deb Wright, Village President

Missing was Stefan Golec

Also Present: Gary Fox, Development; Betsy Thurston BFDDA; Joe Segale and Mike Obuchowski VTrans; Laurel Green, Sustainable Rockingham

Press: Fact TV

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Village President Wright

Approve Minutes of March 30, 2021: **NONE**

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting:  **NONE**

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person): Green spoke briefly about climate destruction and what it is doing to our daily temperatures. This led into her topic about Blue Sky Days that will be held from July 23rd through August 22nd. There will be a coloring contest and a book walk starting at Hetty Green Park and ending at the Library. There will be flyers going out later this week.

Manager’s Report: Pickup said there will be another vaccine clinic on July 30 2021 at the Police/Fire Facility from 9:00am until 8:30pm. They will have the Pfizer and Johnson vaccine available. If you choose the Pfizer vaccine the second dose will be available August 22 2021 at the same facility.

At the July 7 2021 Selectboard meeting the Depot Street Bridge will be discussed and hopefully a decision will be made. Looks like early 2023 before construction will start.

Agenda

1. Fall Tax Sale: Pickup asked the board if this is something they would like to pursue. The board consensus was yes so Pickup said he would put a list together by August and they will go over the list at the next Joint Board meeting in September to get things started. It looks like the sale probably will not take place until the spring of 2022.

2. Finance Committee Discussion: Pickup is looking to start a committee to work with him on finances. He would like a member from each board to help on the committee. After discussion, Hammond made a motion for the Selectboard to nominate P Golec as their member seconded by Cowan. Motion passed unanimously. Dunbar then made the motion for the Trustees to nominate McAuliffe with Masure seconding the motion and again it passed unanimously.

3. 66 Atkinson Street: Pickup again led the discussion stating there is a 3rd party that has shown an interest in the building. The company is Northern Heritage Mills who raised the possibility of short-term stabilization with a goal of saving the structure and re-locating it for educational purposes. The Town of Rockingham will be the owner of the building as soon as the Quit Claim Deed is filed from Mr. Glennon turning the property over. The board will revisit this item at the September meeting once the building becomes ours.

4. Self-Driving Cars: Joe Segale came back to talk to the boards about the automated cars. Him and Obuchowski were at the Trustees meeting back in January or February 2019 and came back to the joint board meeting to find out if Rockingham and Bellows Falls are interested in testing these cars on their town roadways. After discussion there was no motion made by the Selectboard to pursue this. Masure made a motion for the Trustees to not approve the resolution. Motion was seconded by Dunbar. With only 4 members present, President Wright said there was no need for a vote as it was clear the Trustees did not want this to move forward. She thanked Segale and Obuchowski for their work.

5. Temporary Animal Control Enclosure: Animal Control Officer Cass Wright was present as asked the board to allow him to place a temporary enclosure at the Recycle Center. He is looking for a safe place to keep lost/stray animals for 24-36 hours before having to transport them to Dummerston. The board listened to his explanation and decided not to do anything at this time.

6. Green Street Parking: Wright led this discussion stating that this subject had gone before the Ordinance Committee only to find out there is nothing in the Ordinance for this Street. After a brief discussion it was decided to have the Highway Department move the current sign that is placed too far from the corner back to the corner and paint a rectangle with an X through it for no parking. It should then be written into the Ordinance for enforcement.

7. Adopt Tax Rate: Pickup stated the educational rate is not in yet and was hoping they would be in later this week. He scheduled a special meeting with the Trustees for July 7 2021 at 5:30pm just before the Selectboard regular meeting to set the Village rate.

8. BFDDA Update: Betsy Thurston was present to update the board on all their happenings. She thanked the boards for their continued support. BFDDA is hosting a food sale at the Vermont Welcome Center in Guilford on Sunday July 11, 2021. She is asking for anyone who would like to donate baked goods, snacks, drinks and prepared foods to let her know. They are hoping to make some good money as they have several more projects they would like to complete. She asked the area residents to please come out for Rockingham Old Home days July 31, 2021. Fireworks at Dark.

Review Agenda Items for Next Joint Board Meeting:

* 66 Atkinson St
* Tax Sale
* Rockingham Fire Committee

Review & Approve Orders, Bills and Warrants: There were none

Other business: ***NONE***

* Executive Session: P Golec made a motion for the Selectboard to enter into an executive session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee (but the public body must make a final decision to hire or appoint in an open meeting and explain the reasons for its final decision). Title 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3) Motion was seconded by Hammond and passed unanimously.
* Executive Session: Wright made a motion for the Trustees to enter into an executive session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee (but the public body must make a final decision to hire or appoint in an open meeting and explain the reasons for its final decision). Title 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3) Motion was seconded by McAuliffe and passed unanimously. Entered executive session at 8:32pm.

The board came out of executive session at 8:32pm and no action was taken.

Adjo*urn: McAuliffe made a motion to adjourn at 8:34pm. Motion was seconded by p Golec and motion passed.*

 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Kathleen Neathawk, Town and Village Clerk