

Derby Line, Vermont
Trustees Meeting
January 19, 2021
Derby Line Village Hall

Call to Order:

Present were Trustees Richard Creaser, Sarah Webster and Keith Beadle.

Also present were Jaret Judd, Brian Fletcher, Road Foreman and Laurie Moss, Village Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Richard Creaser at 6:30 pm.

Additions to the agenda:

- A. How to handle the upcoming annual meeting
- B. Sewer problem at a property on the border
- C. Engineering agreement for mapping of water shut-offs and infrastructure

Keith made a motion to waive the reading of Rules of Procedure. Sarah seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of the Dec. 15, 2020 Meeting:

Keith made a motion to accept the minutes of the Dec. 15, 2020 meeting as written. Sarah seconded. Motion carried.

There were no minutes to approve for the regularly scheduled Jan. 5, 2021 meeting as that meeting was cancelled.

Tabled Items:

- 1) Stanstead Sewer Treatment Plant Reconstruction & MOU – to be discussed at this meeting
- 2) Ditch along Maple St. – no new information on this project
- 3) Soil Contamination/Drilling Issue at old garage – to be discussed at this meeting

Update on Soil Contamination/Drilling Issue at Old Garage on Ducharme Dr:

Keith reported that Jim Bowes of Bowes Environmental Services drilled three test holes today, one could only go to 3 ½ feet and the second to 6 feet because he hit ledge, but the third did go deeper and was able to reach the water table. Bowes stated that he will allow the holes to fill up and will take water samples next week as well as soil samples. We should hear back from him sometime next week with results. If the tests are favorable, we should then be able to offer the old garage at that site to the prospective buyer.

Sidewalk Salt Concerns for Pets:

Resident Joe Moeykens has voiced his concern about the amount of salt being applied on sidewalks, which is detrimental for pets. The Trustees agreed that it does not appear that an excessive amount of salt is being applied and that human safety is paramount to that of pets.

Update on New Stanstead Sewer Treatment Plant:

Keith reported that he had spoken with Jean Charles Bellemare in Stanstead today, who is saying that the intention is still that the construction will be completed in May 2021. However, because of everything now being shut down in Canada because of the pandemic, he may have to request an extension. Jean Charles stated that they are now in process of demolishing the northern side of the building because it was originally built with hollow blocks or bricks. This would not be sufficient for putting in re-bar or electrical panels. Keith also reported that Lynette Claudon has asked Stanstead for a new building permit. However, Jean Charles stated that he is confused by this as he already sent her a permit issued by Stanstead. Apparently, in Quebec, municipalities issue their own permits as long as they follow lawful guidelines. Keith said he would contact Lynette to clarify.

Keith also asked Jean Charles when Derby Line would start receiving bills. Jean Charles was not clear on this point but offered to send us copies of invoices. Keith impressed upon him that we want to start paying our share.

Jean Charles also stated that the State of VT is asking for an updated Site Water Protection Plan. But he stated that they probably cannot and will not comply with VT laws since the site is in Quebec. They are working on an updated plan now and will submit it when complete. Richard noted that VT probably just wants to make sure that Quebec standards in their Source Water Protection Plans are as stringent as VT's. Jaret noted that in many

cases he has found that Quebec standards or policies are higher than VT's.

Laurie asked if Stanstead could be asked to provide us with regular reports so that we know what progress is being made on this project. Keith agreed to try and contact Jean Charles monthly to get some kind of status report.

Hayes Ford Quote for a New Village Truck:

Brian noted that he is starting to get quotes for a new truck for the upcoming budget and wondered if he should just deal with Hayes Ford or get quotes from other dealers as well. Richard noted that Hayes has not been very responsive to our needs and that Brian should definitely get other quotes. Brian stated that we need to look, not only at price, but also at ongoing service from dealers, whether or not they will provide a loaner vehicle if and when our truck is in for repairs, and warranty specifics. The Trustees agreed that Brian should get other quotes, but to make sure that they all compare the same type/size truck and the options needed.

Engineering Agreement for Mapping of Village Infrastructure:

Richard noted that we have received from Aldrich & Elliott Engineers the agreement between them and the village for their work in mapping the village infrastructure.

Sarah made a motion to authorize Richard Creaser to sign this document on behalf of the village entering into a contract with Aldrich & Elliott Engineers to perform GPS mapping of the village infrastructure. Keith seconded. Motion carried.

Backed-Up Sewer Problem at Property on Border:

Brian informed all that the brick apartment house at the bottom and left side of Rt. 5 (Main St.), which is half and half on the border and which appears to be empty except for one tenant, has had a backed-up sewer for some time. He and someone from Mario Paul Excavating (when they were still in business) inspected this location and found that it has its own septic tank which pumps into Derby Line's sewer. Yet, Derby Line has not been charging the owner for this sewer. Keith stated that since this sewage is coming into our system, regardless of where it is coming from, we are still moving it through the system and, therefore, they should be charged. Richard and Keith stated that we need to find out from Stanstead if they have an agreement with this property owner to see if they know how much to abate on our charges. If not, then we need to collect charges from the owner.

Annual Meeting:

Richard noted that all communication from VLCT and the legislature indicates that we could hold the upcoming annual meeting via Australian ballot. The downside to that is that we would need everything we want considered ready before putting out the warning. Missing with this method would be the chance for voters to have discussions about each issue helping them to make decisions on how to vote. Keith asked if it would be feasible to hold the meeting at the fire station like last year. Richard stated that it would be difficult to determine the number of people who would attend vs. the capacity of that space, although there was plenty of room last year for the approximate 25 who attended and still able to social distance. Keith asked if we would have in-person voting or mail-in ballots. Richard stated we could do both, but having in-person voting would require that the polls be open for the specific hours set by the State, which could be done. In order to help people in making decisions, we could hold a prior informational Zoom meeting. Richard asked Laurie to write up the first draft of the warning to include the vacancies that need to be filled and to include \$25,000 for the Paving Fund. **Tabled.**

2021 – 2022 Budget:

The Trustees began the process of creating the new year's budget.

Business from Trustees, Treasurer and Road Foreman:

Paving: Brian reported that he has been told by a representative at Pike Industries that, if the weather is good in May 2021, they might very likely do the Baxter Ave paving that we have been waiting for. After June 1, however, state roads projects will take precedence.

Plowing Snow at North end of Main St. on Border: Brian reported that they are still having some problems plowing snow at this location because the gate is not opened until 8 am. Keith reminded him to call the border office to get the gates opened earlier, even the night before if he knows a storm is coming. Keith agreed to contact the supervisor again to remind them that this needs to be done.

Snowmachine(s) Traveling on Streets: Richard and Jaret noted that a snowmobiler has been traveling illegally on Caswell Ave., Meadow Lane, Beauchesne & Patenaude Sts.

New Business from the Audience: None

Old business from the Audience (5-minute limit unless otherwise directed): None

Executive Session: No

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Feb. 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Review and Sign Bank Statement: Yes

Warrants were Reviewed and Signed: Yes

The Last Check Printed: #16104

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine C. Roy, Assistant Village Clerk