

TOWN OF GLOVER
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 13, 2023 – Glover Volunteer Fire Department Building

Present: Leanne Harple, Phil Young, Dave Simmons, Mike Pray and Scott Pray, Road Crew, Theresea Perron, Town Administrator, John Rodgers, Dan Clark, Randy Williams, Nick Ecker-Racz, Adam Heuslein, Ashley Fontaine and Becca Allen, Glover Ambulance, Job Breitmeyer, Glover Volunteer Fire Dept, Phil Brooks, Patrick Hurley, Memphremagog Watershed, Pete Emerson, Tyler Scelza, Chris Roy, Newport Daily Express, and Cindy Epinette, Transcriber.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm. The meeting was scheduled 15 minutes later than usual to accommodate the change in venue.
2. Additions to the agenda: Property donation to VT Fish & Wildlife, a windshield replacement request and a sewer permit request. Deletions from the agenda: the quarterly financial update.
3. Minutes: **Dave made a motion, seconded by Phil, to approve the minutes dated June 22, 2023. The motion carried.**
4. **Road Update:**
 - a. John Rodgers had several issues he wanted to discuss with the Selectboard:
 - i. Driveway Permit: John stated that there has always been a driveway where his mother's new mobile home is located and where his son is building a home. He contended that the driveway permit process does not address when a driveway becomes overgrown.
 - ii. Excess Weight Permit: John stated the excess weight permit process is arbitrary and unfair. He indicated there are many trucks that travel Glover roads that do not pay the excess weight permit fee, therefore, it is not fair and is nor being enforced. It was explained that the excess weight permit is state law and holds vehicles accountable for damage inflicted upon town roads. It was suggested the First Constable be designated to inform violators. Also, to research what other towns do to enforce this law, what assistance VLCT can provide and send a letter to businesses that should be paying this fee as well.
 - iii. Snowplowing Letter: John stated the folks that received the letter reminding them to not plow across the town road was arbitrary, unfair and discriminatory. He indicated there are many other people who plow across the road that did not receive the letter and the town has the right to waive this law, at their discretion. It was explained that those folks who received the letter were people who Mike observed were violating the state law and causing a safety hazard for other motorists. The Selectboard have discussed this previously and would like a note to go with the tax bills, reminding homeowners that it is unlawful to plow snow across any road.
 - iv. Rodger's Road: John is challenging the town's jurisdiction over Rodgers Road. He has enlisted legal assistance to determine if the road is private property or the town's responsibility. He is contending that there is no layout for the road, therefore it does not exist. Mike and Nick Ecker-Racz disputed this information, based on the State of Vermont road map information collected from the town on an annual basis, and their research in the annual report of 1956 which indicates the town worked on Rodgers road. John has requested a copy of the information they collected.

- v. **Road Safety:** While the road crew are repairing roads after the recent flooding, Mike is requesting everyone slow down and give the grader room to operate.
 - b. **Windshield Replacement Request:** The Selectboard received a letter from a gentleman who sustained a crack in his windshield after meeting a town truck. The Selectboard indicated that this is a routine road hazard and requested the insurance company, representing the gentleman, be waived, in writing. If the insurance company will not waive the fee, then this matter will be discussed again.
- 5. **2023 Flood Update:** The Board would like to express their appreciation to everyone who responded to this emergency.
 - a. **Roads:** Mike indicated all roads are open and passable. Some roads are one lane wide therefore please be careful when traveling. Mark & Devin Colburn and Tim Menard have been working with the road crew to repair the roads. Nick requested Tyler Scelza be allowed to work on Swamp Road, a class 4 road, and a “Road Closed” sign be posted to discourage folks from traveling it. **Dave made a motion, seconded by Phil, to permit Tyler Scelza to work on Swamp road, as needed, to make it passable. The motion carried.** The Board reminded Tyler to take before and after pictures of the damaged area for FEMA reimbursement purposes.
 - b. The Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP): Adam Heuslein and Phil Brooks have volunteered to be co-directors of the LEMP to replace Allen Mathews. **Leanne made a motion, seconded by Phil, to appoint Adam and Phil as Co-Directors in case of emergencies. The motion carried.**
 - c. Nick expressed concern about emergency shelters and food supplies. He does not believe the public is aware of where to go or what to do, in case of an emergency like the one we just experienced. He suggested training/practice be performed and having a stock pile of non-perishable food items available. Adam reminded everyone that the Fire Department is a Red Cross shelter. However, the Glover Ambulance and Fire Department buildings should not be used as a shelter considering the amount of activity created when an emergency response is needed. During this emergency, the Fire Department was opened as a shelter with 40-50 beds available. Thanks to Currier’s Market there was food available for those families displaced. Randy suggested re-instating the phone chain to communicate with neighbors.
 - d. Town Hall Basement: The Town Hall basement, where Glover Senior Meals and BASSI reside, was flooded. Several folks and organizations provided dehumidifiers to air out the basement to help minimize mold/mildew. A dumpster has been acquired to dispose of damaged food, supplies, equipment and building material. The town agreed to pay for half the cost of the dumpster and Senior Meals/BASSI have agreed to pay for the other half. On Friday, July 14th at 10am volunteers are scheduled to come in to clean out the basement of damaged materials. Blanchard Oil has been called to inspect the furnace for damage. Access Mobility has been called to fix the elevator. Dennis Parent is available to come in with industrial dehumidifiers and fans to clean the building. Theresa was unable to obtain a quote for this cleanup process. Some of the sheetrock in the basement will have to be replaced. **Leanne made a motion, seconded by Phil, to approve hiring Dennis Parent to clean the town hall basement. The motion carried. Dave made a motion, seconded by Phil, to authorize Theresa to spend up to \$5,000 to clean up and out the town hall basement without having to confer with the Selectboard. The motion carried.**
- 6. **2023 Property Tax Rate (Action):**

- a. **Dave made a motion, seconded by Phil, to approve the 2023 Property Tax Homestead tax rate at 1.8944 and the Non-Homestead tax rate at \$2.0830. The motion carried.**
- b. **Property Donation to VT Fish & Wildlife:** The Estate of Vivian Brooks owns a piece of property abutting Clark's Pond. They would like to donate this property to Vermont Fish & Wildlife. Patrick Hurley and Pete Emerson were present to request a letter of support from the Selectboard and to answer any question the Selectboard may have. They indicated the VT Fish and Wildlife department will plant some trees. **Dave made a motion, seconded by Phil, to approve and sign a letter of support. The motion carried.**

7. **Wastewater Update:**

- a. Tim Degrasse has expressed interest in replacing Allen to monitor the sewage pumps. Tim indicated the town must hire a licensed monitor to keep track of the pumps each day, in the future. And overflows need to be reported to the State. The Board has decided to postpone hiring anyone to replace Allen at this time.
- b. Tim has suggested conducting a "smoke test" of the sewer lines to determine where stormwater is entering the sewage lines. This will include sump pumps and rain runoff from roofs. It is costing the town a great deal of money for non-sewer related material to pass through the sewer lines, it is also illegal. VLCT can help expedite the smoke testing process at no charge and the town will only be responsible for the smoke test itself. When the problem areas are discovered, the town must enforce the policy, including assessing fines if necessary. The town can seek assistance from the State to enforce it. Tim suggested investing in fixing all the manhole covers so they seal properly.
- c. Sewer Permit: The Board reviewed and signed a sewer permit from Chris & Becky Patrick on Roaring Brook road.

8. GREC Funds Update: postponed.

9. **Glover Green Update:** A proposed amendment was suggested to the Quit Claim Deed for the Glover Green. **Dave made a motion, seconded by Phil, to accept the amendment for the right to use the road as proposed. The motion carried.** Leanne will contact Sara Davies Coe to relay the decision. Once the town obtains ownership of the Green, the road will have to be named for 911 purposes.

10. **Quarterly Financial Update:** postponed

11. **Orleans County Sheriff's Office (May/June):**

- a. The Board reviewed these two reports. No action needed.
- b. It was noted there was a speed cart on Parker road but it is no longer there. It was also noted that a 15mph speed limit on a paved road is not enforceable and a speed limit sign on ??? has not been fixed.

12. **Open public comment period:**

- a. The Fire Department has requested use of the Fire Department Reserve Funds to repair the pumps on two fire trucks. The cost is unknown at this time. The Selectboard approved this request.
- b. Recycling: Theresa has requested permission to advertise for another helper at the Recycling Center. She is composing a list of folks willing to help when the regular attendants are not available to work. **Dave made a motion, seconded by Phil, to hire a third person to work in the Recycling Center. The motion carried.**
- c. Dan Clark inquired if the Selectboard meeting location will change again. The Selectboard responded that no, the meeting will still be held in the Town Hall again after it is cleaned as a result of flood damage.

d. Farmers Market: Randy indicated the Farmers Market for Sunday, July 16th has been postponed due to rain forecast and they are unable to use the Town Hall.

13. **The Director's Orders were signed.**

14. Mike Pray requested an Executive Session. Leanne made a motion, seconded by Phil, to go into executive session at 8:39pm to discuss a personnel matter.

15. Executive Session was concluded at 9:02pm. Leanne and Phil will address the issue of being respectful at Selectboard meetings.

16. **Adjourn:** Leanne made a motion, seconded by Phil, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Cynthia Epinette
Transcriber

Leanne Harple, Chair

Phil Young

Dave Simmons