

TCSWMO MEETING MINUTES
Liberty Town Office
January 23, 2020

The following directors were present: John Shepard, Dana Philippi, Henry Hall, Jim Bailey, Elaine Porter, Charlotte Henderson, Norman Casas, Charles Garrigan and Peter Beckett.
Also present were David Stanley, Facility Manager and Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant.

John Shepard called meeting to order at 7:05pm

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made by Charlotte and seconded by Dana Philippi to accept the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting. Motion carried. A motion was made by Dana Philippi and seconded by Elaine Porter to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2019. Motion carried. Two abstentions for Appleton residents who were not present at the Nov. meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The checking account balance as of today is \$104,845.71, the Reserve Account balance is \$75,534.48 and the CD balance is \$50,774.68. Peter Beckett made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Dana Philippi seconded. Motion carried. Norman Casas asked why so much money is kept in the checking account.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: John Shepard made a comment on appreciating the detail in the minutes. Norman says things seem to be doing really well at the Station. John reported that a fellow Union selectman was at the Station when a fellow patron berated another for speeding into the station. David was nearly hit in front of the trash building on another occasion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MANAGER'S REPORT: David is working on getting a speed limit sign. It would be for 5mph. There are also problems with people exiting the wrong way. A speed bump is an option which would be applied for in a grant application. It would improve safety for the workers also.

Not much news has occurred since the December meeting. The wood harvesting operation has begun. David met with Ed and his sons and they have linked up with Nolan Steele. They are looking at harvesting on both parcels and they will start with the larger parcel first and reserve the station parcel until mud season. They will be there a while as it is 90 acres. We're not in a hurry and are more interested in the stewardship of the land. We would look at future harvests in 10-year intervals.

The volume of material has slowed down, including mattresses. Bag sales and commercial demo have slowed down but we did receive a whole small house and foundation from Rt 17.

Additional lights have been installed low in the trailer shed. It will be safer after dark.

A new battery is in the backhoe, the service door on left of the trash building will be replaced and a new window has been ordered for the scale shack. Matthews Brothers makes them for Viking. We have an account with Viking now.

David is working on safety and regulatory improvements such as exit signs, a sign on fuel tank, the metal bin gate is now kept closed, and the demo bins are kept closed. David has purchased some eye wash station inspection tags.

This time of year, we have less revenue but still have bills.

Copies of the proposed **Final 2020 Budget** were handed out and discussed.

Most of the budget is as distributed at the December meeting. There has been some back and forth

discussions and Peter has some ideas regarding projections for purchasing big items, such as trailers and backhoe. David said our backhoe is a 2002 with about half the hours projected for its life span and he feels it would likely be 2030 and before it needed to be replaced.

Infrastructure Fund – Peter also suggested we put \$3,000/year in a building (infrastructure fund), because something will happen. He feels we need to set aside an amount every year and put it in the budget. David stated that money in the previous administration was used to level out a budget and not saved. We are not doing that. John is not prepared to make major funding changes tonight. David noted that the budget is not what Peter last saw. Peter said he doesn't see the need to borrow money to purchase the trailer because we've got the money. John said that this is a philosophical question. The building part is to be used for emergencies. David worried about having enough buffer money. Peter said we could borrow then.

Henry – the cost to borrow money shouldn't go up much.

John asked, do we risk not having a good credit rating if we don't borrow money to purchase the trailer? He feels that we need a financial cushion.

Norman said that if we buy it outright, we'd still have the CD and checking account. How much do we save over the life of the loan?

Jim Bailey would like to see the way the budget is written for one year and regroup. We could borrow money to purchase the trailer and then pay it off in one year.

Jim Bailey made a motion that we accept the budget as written and, in a year, review what we want to do with the remaining balance on the trailer, Dana seconded.

Since David has been manager, he has been conservative with revenues so we could build up savings again and last year we did take money to avoid raising taxes. He'd be comfortable keeping the increase in the 5 – 6% range.

After discussion, **Jim Bailey withdrew his motion. Dana seconded.**

Peter made a motion to fully fund the trailer without borrowing, Charlotte seconded.

All in favor, motion passed.

Peter thinks we should increase the budget. We will transfer the \$7,000 for the loan payment to the heavy equipment replacement funds and we would add \$4,000 as an increase to the Town Assessments.

David will put \$3,000 in infrastructure fund and \$15,000 rather than \$18,000 in heavy equipment replacement fund. The result is that the budget will be going up by \$4,000.

John summarized that we would have a more aggressive reserve to save for equipment, we won't borrow for the new trailer and we'll increase the budget by \$4,000 which is a 3 to 4% increase.

David would like to suggest that we entertain the idea of using any woodlot revenue towards capital investment reserve.

Lincoln Co. is down a bit per capita.

Dana made a motion that we accept the budget as amended, Norman seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There will be two warrant articles on each town's annual warrant.

It has been increasingly difficult to find active Board members.

Part 3 Administration, Section 3.2 addresses Board member requirements.

Dana made a motion that we accept it as amended, Charlotte seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Part 4 – Finance, Section 4.2 (b) deals with the fact of the Station being in Union. Their tax credit is not a payment, that amount is deleted from their assessment.

Dana made a motion that we accept it as amended, Peter seconded. Motion passed unanimously

The Fourth Quarter Financial reports and the January warrant were handed out to Board members.

The next meeting will be in Somerville on April 30 at 7:00 pm.

Dana made a motion to adjourn and Peter seconded at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant