

SANDGATE VT SELECT BOARD MEETING - MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 6:04 pm

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: Joe Nolan, Charlie Pike, John Phelps, Linda Schmidt and Karen Tendrup. Also present: Sheriff James Gulley and Director of Administration, Stephanie Peters; Road Foreman, Jay Wilson; Rob Viglas, John Grover, Jessica Hill, Margaret Phelps, Elizabeth Daut, and Richard Zoppel.

SHERIFF JAMES GULLEY SPEAKS: The Selectboard has asked James Gulley to give some information about the Town entering into a Law Enforcement contract with the County Police. James Gulley listed off the new expenses and improvements he has incurred since entering in his position. He states that there are 24 people employed at the Sheriff's Department currently. These employees are getting much needed paid training, raises, and health insurance. Workmen's Comp. insurance is budgeted at \$140,000 per year for the Department. He continues that the fleet is comprised of older vehicles that will need to be replaced or maintained. Communications has to be brought up to current standards and the cost for communications is budgeted around \$60,000 per year. The officers did not have any body worn cameras, the cost for each camera is \$1,000-\$2,000 per camera. Joe Nolan asks what the hourly cost would be if the Town entered into a contract. Sheriff James Gulley replies that the cost is on a sliding scale based on the amount of hours the town requests. He continues that 1-29 hours per week at the rate of \$70/hour, 30-39 hours per week would cost \$65/hour, and 40 hours and beyond would be at a rate of \$65/hour. Richard Zoppel asks when the time would start for the hourly rate the town chooses. James Gulley replies that the time clock would start when the officer gets in the vehicle and drives to town. James Gulley adds that he does not believe in routine patrols, which are predictable and ineffective. He asks his officers to patrol at different times of day. Richard Zoppel states that we would need patrolling around school pickup and drop off. John Grover asks why the State Police could not catch the perpetrator who passed the school bus a few weeks ago, using the recording from the bus cameras. James Gulley states that his department can verify a vehicle from the school bus cameras and use that information. The revenue from the tickets written in town is a 40%-town and 60%-state split. The town would have to request and apply with the State, to receive ticket revenues. The patrolling contract can be effective immediately. The town can customize the hours patrolled on the contract. James Gulley asks that if the town enters into a patrolling contract, he would like to deal with one person on the Selectboard.

CITIZENS CONCERNS: John Grover asks for his land marker stake to be placed back where it had previously been. The Road Crew will look into finding the right spot. Rob Viglas states that he is concerned about the condition of West Road. He states that one area is becoming impassable. Jay Wilson replies that he is aware of this and will be grading and gravelling West Road soon.

OTHER BUSINESS: Karen Tendrup states that she is taking a Health Officer course and this will certify her for this year.

ROAD REPORT: The Road Foreman has turned in 2 weeks of daily work logs, filed at Town Hall. The Selectboard is considering purchasing an excavator. The town spent around \$30,000 renting an excavator to bring our roadways up to current state standards. Joe Nolan states that Jay and himself have found a couple excavators for some price comparisons. The first being a 2019 excavator with 17 hours that costs \$109,000 and the second is a machine with 55 hours for \$107,000. The Treasurer is asked to come up with some ways the town could pay for a new excavator.

REVIEW MARCH 8, 2023 MINUTES: The Board reviews the minutes. Charlie Pike makes a motion to approve the minutes. Linda seconds. Minutes approved.

SIGN ORDERS: The Selectmen sign the orders.

ADJOURN: Linda Schmidt makes a motion to adjourn. John Phelps seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY- APRIL 3, 2023 AT 6:00
IN THE SANDGATE TOWN HALL.**

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Reidy.