

Town of Danby
Select Board Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2024
Town Office, Danby, VT 7:00pm
<https://www.danbyvt.org/government-information>
ZOOM MEETING ID: 813 2851 1750

Public Present – D. Stoddard, M. Bushee, B. Payne, T. Porter, R. Porter, M. Gasperetti,

Virtual Present – L. Lawson, L. Dever, B. Richardson, G. Derr, A. Smith, S. White, D.R. White, C. Hardaway, T. Parker, M. Lees,

- Call to order at 7:00pm
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
 - Heaton, Abbott, Haines, Bender – present
 - Absent - Fuller
- Procedure for Remote Access and Public Comment Statement
 - Brad Bender
- Motion to set agenda
 - Motion by Haines, Seconded by Heaton
 - Motion passes unanimously
- Public Comment
 - Lauren Dever
 - State ethics liaison question
 - Wondering what the process is and are letters of interest welcome
 - Statement read that was sent to the Select Board
 - Either a town employee or select board member
 - Annette Smith
 - Wondering about transfer station discussion
 - Wondering about any other new or old business
 - Bill Payne
 - Comment regarding appointing or electing treasurer
 - Thinks it is a good idea to vote on it
- Motion to adopt minutes of Select Board Meeting of November 14, 2024
 - Motion by Haines, seconded by Abbott
 - Motion passes unanimously
- Transfer station Relocation Discussion – Matt Gasperetti – Mt. Tabor SB Chair
 - Danby and Mt. Tabor combining transfer station
 - Select Board met last week and discussed
 - Danby would like to move transfer station to reduce potential hazards
 - Gets very congested
 - Dangerous when loading trucks in the winter with sand
 - Limited room and space in the current area
 - Mt. Tabor would ideally like Danby to take over completely and run as they see fit
 - Mt. Tabor still has use
 - No cost lease for the land
 - Renewable lease for the purpose of transfer station
 - Concerns
 - What liabilities Mt. Tabor would still have
 - Hold harmless agreement?
 - Would allow Danby to do whatever would work best
 - No permanent structures put up without prior approval

- How long would the lease be?
 - Something in writing outlining time of lease
 - Minimum of a 3 year lease
- There is no power currently available at the transfer station
 - Danby would need to take care of that expense
- 5 or 10 year lease
- It is a major move
- Mt. Tabor residents would still pay for garbage the same way Danby residents would
- The current dump attendant has been great, do not need to keep him on
 - Hours can be set by Danby
 - Tuesday 3-5pm Saturday 10-2pm are current hours
- Current dumpster turn around
 - Can get answered
- Current configuration would need to be changed to handle the larger volume
- Danby would like to put up a structure and add power
 - For dump attendants, lights etc
 - Could potentially move current building
- Any animal issues?
 - None that Mt. Tabor is aware of
 - Currently has electric fence around concerned areas
- Room to have areas for other disposal
- Does Mt. Tabor use VLCT
 - Yes they do
- Would probably need to look into permit use
- Rutland County Waste District
 - Currently use Hubbards for containers
- Asked Mt. Tabor to bring information back to their board
- Can reconnect next month
- **Treasurer's Report - Michelle Bushee**
 - Report on tax collection/delinquencies
 - 95% have been collected in a timely manner
 - BROC loans
 - \$75,567.31
 - 5 loans out for \$35,xxx
 - With current budget adjustments it would raise it approximately by 8% \$90,000
 - Approximately a .035 tax increase
 - Should there be another budget workshop before the January meeting
 - January 9, 2025 at 6pm finalize the budget before select board meeting
- **Appoint State Ethics Committee Liaison**
 - Motion to Appoint Tom Fuller
 - Motion by Haines Seconded by Heaton
 - Motion passes unanimously
- **Road Commissioners Report: T. Fuller Jr. – Absent**
 - Steve Haines to give report
 - Pike 5% increase
 - Grants in Aid reimbursement deadline 12/31
 - Did not do any of those projects this year
 - Dealing with some snow
 - Worked on a few washouts that took president
 - Plugged culvert caused water to jump and take a section of the road out
 - Repaired and should be good until next year when it is adjusted
 - How are the new guys working out
 - They are working out well

- Utilizing them as much as needed
- **Old Business**
 - **Status of Taconic & Green closing CMS**
 - Spoke to them a few days ago
 - Nothing is happening currently for the '25-'26 school year
 - No decision at this point
 - Not sure about contributing funds for additional play structures
 - Up to the trustees of public funds
- **New Business**
 - **Discuss possible questions for Town Meeting ballot**
 - **Elected vs Appointed Treasurer**
 - **Not the first time this has been discussed**
 - **Title 17 read outlining options**
 - **Revolving door of treasurers**
 - **It is hard to find someone qualified**
 - **Concerns around hours of the treasurer**
 - **Hours don't necessarily work with regular business hours**
 - **If it is an appointed position the select board can set the hours and they will be an employee of the town and not an elected official**
 - **Would it affect employee benefits?**
 - **Officially here 2 days a week, does come after hours to do additional work**
 - **Offers to make appointments if people need**
 - **It is a difficult job to step into green**
 - **There is a lot more going on than it appears**
 - **What comes when someone is appointed**
 - **Do they become a union member, other benefits**
 - **Voters would have to vote on whether or not they would like an appointed Treasurer or an elected treasurer**
 - **It is valid to ask the town what they want to do**
 - **Motion to put the question on the ballot to ask the voters to have the select board appoint a treasurer**
 - **Motion by Abbott Seconded by Haines**
 - **Motion passed unanimously**
- **Motion to adjourn 8:07pm by Haines, Seconded by Abbott**
 - **motion passes unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Drea Stoddard

Minute Taker