Town of Edgecomb Select Board

MINUTES

December 13, 2021, 6:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Dawn Murray, Select Board Chair Ted Hugger, Select Board Member Mike Smith, Select Board Member Barbara Brennan, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of Minutes from 11/29 Ted motioned to approve the minutes; Mike seconded. Approved 3/0.

2 New Business

- Scott Griffin, Roads Commissioner discussed requests by residents to replace culverts in private neighborhoods and also to prune tree limbs near roads. In both cases, Dawn said it is not the job of the town to carry out or pay for these kinds of work. The trees are on the land of private citizens and should be their responsibility; in fact, if the town wants to prune a tree near a road, the town needs to get the homeowner's permission. Roads are considered easements to access private property. In the case of a culvert that may have been damaged by town plows turning around, we might discuss a cost share. This culvert is near the Newcastle line and may also be damaged by Newcastle plows. Scott said this policy will change the way he has operated in the past. Dawn will discuss this topic with MMA lawyers. Ted asked Scott about the repair to the Salt Shed. Scott responded that problems have not been addressed. The SB will write a letter to the contractor.
- Ordinance Review Committee: Rebecca Graham and David Nutt discussed a plan to revise the Comprehensive Plan, which needs to be updated to include ordinances that pertain to accessory dwellings. She said the Plan also needs updating in other areas, such as aging in place, affordable housing, climate change, and short-term rentals. They would like to create a committee of about 6 members to do this revision. David has a couple of people in mind, and Mike will also contact some prospective members. Rebecca said they will need a budget for such things as printing and legal review. Claudia said there is a grant with \$1271 still available for this purpose. David Nutt emphasized that it is time to position our town to move forward and expressed a need for better communication. Their goal for completing the revision to the Comp Plan is 2023.
- Corning Townsend visited and presented the SB with a letter nominating Terry Stockwell as the new Deputy Harbormaster for the remainder of this fiscal year. After that time he hopes Terry will become the Harbormaster. Terry is highly regarded as an experienced boater, fisherman, and prior harbormaster on Southport. Ted motioned to

appoint Terry Stockwell as Deputy Harbormaster through June 2022. Mike seconded. Approved 3/0.

- Mike has been unable to contact David Pratt to discuss his interest in another term as Animal Control Officer. Claudia will research other possible contact numbers.
- County Hazard Mitigation Resolution: The SB voted 3/0 to adopt this resolution.
- Town Meeting vs Warrant Ballot Referendum: There was a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of an in-person town meeting as opposed to voting via referendum ballot. While Covid still exists, there is not now a state mandate that prevents gathering. But some members of the SB feel that the referendum voting in the past year has encouraged more voter participation than the TH meetings have done. Dawn expressed that the face-to-face discussion of some articles can lead to negotiating lower budgets on some articles, where referendum voting only allows for yes/no votes. Voters making "educated decisions" was a concern of referendum voting, with the suggestion that there would need to be a well-advertised Public Hearing where residents can learn about the warrant items, ask questions, and give input. While Covid protocols may again determine what we do in 2022, the future of voting in Edgecomb cannot be decided by the SB alone. Claudia will research this topic. This discussion will be continued.

3. Ongoing Business

- 12/11 Meet and Greet: All agreed that this first M and G was very successful, and others will follow. There needs to be a sign that informs citizens of town activities.
- Town Clerk/Treasurer Claudia Coffin discussed important upcoming dates: March 7 Warrant must be signed. Feb 14 March 6 Ted will put together the warrant items. The Town Report will be mailed the week of May 9. Nomination papers will be available Feb. 10, returned by March 7. Absentee ballots will be available April 21.

There needs to be a Public Hearing on the ordinance for the solar project. Mike suggested an informational hearing about this topic be held after the SB meeting on Jan. 24.

The SB as Assessors approved 3/0 an abatement of \$235.58 to Mr. and Mrs. Lydecker for the 2021 tax year.

The Assessors also approved 3/0 an abatement of \$3483.46 to the Coastal River Conservancy Trust for tax year 2021.

Assessors approved 3/0 a supplemental assessment of \$898.68 to Paul G. Garber.

4. Warrants: Ted submitted the following warrants for approval:

General Warrant #12 \$92,520.02 (includes plowing payment; FD compensation)

Ted motioned to approve; Mike seconded. Approved 3/0

Waste Water Warrant #106 \$3429.40

Ted motioned to approve; Mike seconded. Approved 3/0.

5. Public Comment

6. Next meeting date: Tuesday Dec. 28

7. Adjourn: 7:30