Town of Randolph
Regular Meeting Minutes – Selectboard (DRAFT)
January 13, 2022

exhibit MB-18

***This meeting was hybrid, with remote access provided via Zoom.**

****This draft is intended for open meeting law compliance; a more detailed version may replace the draft.**

Selectboard: Trini Brassard (via Zoom), Perry Armstrong (via Zoom), Patrick French (in person), Tom Ayres (via Zoom), and Larry Satcowitz (via Zoom).

Municipal Staff: Trevor Lashua, Town Manager; Kimberly Grout, Emery Mattheis (via Zoom), Josh Jerome (via Zoom), Mimi Burstein (via Zoom), Haidi Arias (via Zoom).

Public Attendees: Michael Binder, Joan Allen, Jessie Schmidt from Orange County Restorative Justice Center, Brooke Dingledine (via Zoom), Cliff Rankin (via Zoom), Jeff Grout (via Zoom), John Pimental (via zoom), Gary Dir (via Zoom), Amy Grasmick (via Zoom); additional individuals attended via Zoom.

Media: ORCA; Tim Calabro, *Our Herald*.

Regular Selectboard Meeting

Trini called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Trevor mentioned that during the meeting all Zoom callers should be muted unless they were talking.

3. Approval of Agenda

Pat moved to approve the agenda. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Regular Selectboard Meeting

Draft FY23 Budget Hearing (#4)

A copy of the draft FY23 budgets, as endorsed by the Budget Committee in November 2021, was discussed. Trevor noted there will be additional changes to reflect personnel and insurance (across categories – health, property and casualty, worker’s compensation, unemployment, etc.) costs as now known.

After discussion of the current draft budget, Trevor suggested the Selectboard study the budget and meet on Saturday January 22nd to review revisions.

<u>Consent Calendar (#5)</u>

<u>*5.a – Consent Calendar.*</u>

The consent calendar contained the minutes of the December 9th meeting.
Trini commented that she had not been seeing the warrants and requested that warrants from the past 2 months be included at the February Selectboard Meeting

<u>Consider a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented or amended.</u>

Pat moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021 meeting. Larry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Larry suggested they take the time at the upcoming January 22nd meeting to approve the warrants.

Trevor brought the conversation back to the earlier budget hearing because Jessie Schmidt from Orange County Restorative Justice Center was there to ask the Board to consider doubling their Special Appropriation without the required signatures (they were unable to obtain the signatures because of COVID). A discussion ensued regarding whether the Board has the authority to grant this request and if it would start a precedence with other groups opting for additional money without getting signatures.

Pat moved to either amend request from $600.00 to $1200.00 (if allowable) or put $600.00 in the article, and $600.00 in the budget. Larry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

<u>New Business (#6)</u>

<u>*6.a* – Consider accepting the FY21 Audit as presented.</u>

Bonnie Batchelder, from the Town’s auditing firm (Batchelder Associates, PC), was supposed to present the FY21 audit with former Finance Director Cliff Rankin.

Bonnie was not in attendance. Trini suggested they table the topic until Bonnie could be present.

<u>6.b – Consider Current Use Changes.</u>

Assessor Mimi Burstein explained that as of December 28, 2021 Current Use (CU)certified all the Town’s CU parcels. In accordance with Title 32, Section 4261, the Listers, with approval of the Selectboard, would like to correct the following errors and omissions in the Grand List for 2021.

Pat moved to approve correction of the errors and omissions as presented. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

6.c – Discuss Davis Road Solar Project (per request by Michael Binder).
Michael Binder asked the Selectboard to rescind its approval of a preferred siting letter for a solar array project on Davis Road. Mr. Binder is an appellant of the project in the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) process; the PUC has the ultimate authority to approve (or not).

Trini opened the topic by disclosing a potential conflict of interest. After discussion with the Vice Chair and the Board it was decided that she continue to chair the meeting. Following a long discussion regarding the slopes on the proposed project site and the prospect of rescinding the preferred siting letter it was decided there was not enough information to make a decision. The Board will revisit the discussion at the next meeting, February 10, 2022.

6.d – Consider a motion to approve the removal of the trees on Pleasant Street to further facilitate Green Mountain Power's line upgrade and substation project.

The discussion was about the fact that the trees have already been removed.

6.e – Consider Appointing Members of the ARPA Committee.
The Selectboard reviewed seven applicants for six open seats. The seventh open seat is for the chair.

Pat motioned to appoint applicants one through six to the ARPA Committee. Larry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Perry volunteered to be the chair.

Larry motioned for Perry to be the chair. Tom seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

6.f – Town Meeting 2022 – Australian Ballot or Floor.
This was intended to start the conversation about which method to use for Town Meeting 2022. After some discussion about whether it was better to hold a Town Meeting or have residents vote by Australian Ballot the Selectboard entertained a vote.

Larry motioned to have votes cast by Australian Ballot as opposed having a Town Meeting. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

6.g – Draft 2022 Town Meeting Warning.

The board reviewed the draft of the warning for Town Meeting 2022. Once the budget is set, the Warning can be adopted.

<u>6.h – Consider Kimball Public Library Cupola Grant for Repair and Restoration.</u>

Pat motioned to accept the grant and commit $140,00.00 in funding from the Town's capital facilities reserve for the Kimball public Library's cupola repair project. Larry seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

<u>6.i. – Consider Approving Marketing and Tourism Grant Agreement.</u>
The enclosed materials from Joshua Jerome, Economic Development Director, provide more detail.

Tom moved to approve execution of the marketing and tourism grant agreement as described by Josh. Perry seconded. Motioned passed 5-0.

<u>6.j – Consider Adopting FY22 Certificate of Highway Mileage.</u>
The certificate of highway mileage, an annual requirement, is enclosed. No changes are proposed or have occurred.

Perry moved to adopt the FY22 Certificate of Highway Mileage. Pat seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

<u>6.k – Consider approving the assembly permit for Winterfest 2022</u>.

Tom moved to approve the assembly permit for Winterfest 2022. Pat seconded. Motion passed 4-0 (Perry abstained).

<u>**Manager's Report (#7)**</u>

> *Flood Resilient Communities Grant Program. Randolph House renovation project and resident parking. OSHA/VOSHA Regulations and Vaccine Mandates Town Report Dedication and Selectboard Report. UVM Local Democracy Internship. Energy Audits of Municipal Buildings RFP. North Wells and Reservoir project. Maple Street project update. Bylaw Modernization Grant update.*

Tom moved to enter executive session at 8:28 p.m. for personnel, contracts, and collective bargaining. Larry seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Tom moved to exit executive session at 9:36 p.m. Larry seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Tom moved to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. Perry seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 10th, at 5:30 p.m.