

# **Town of Oakham**

Board of Selectmen

Regular Session

Minutes of January 10, 2022

**Present:** Lucy Tessnau-Chairman, Don Haapakoski-Vice Chairman, Brad Taylor-Clerk

**In attendance:** Maribel LaRange-BOS admin asst, Kevin Currier-Hwy Dept Superintendent, Sue Shays, Tim Howe-Fire Chief, Paul Rochette, Samantha Bodine-Library Director

**Meeting opened at 6:01 PM by Chairman, Lucy Tessnau**

**Approve Warrants:** No warrants to approve at the time as they were not done for the BOS to approve.

**Approve Minutes:** Don made motion to approve minutes for 12/27/2021, Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lucy all in favor.

**Kevin Currier-Hwy Dept/sand to salt ratio:** Brad says he's worried about the water being contaminated and wells being damaged by the use of too much salt on the roads. Kevin said that there are no known wells damaged in the 28 years he's worked for the town. Brad said his fear is that it can happen all at once, and maybe not for a while but in the future. Where would Oakham get water from if the water becomes polluted? Kevin says he understands his concerns and also has environmental concerns but has to do what's best to keep the roads safe for the drivers on them, not jeopardizing anyone's safety. He also said he would hate to see something happen to anyone because there isn't enough salt on the roads. Current ratio is 4:1 (sand to salt). Brad said that maybe in the future they can come up with something different that will be good for all.

**Fire Station- Repairs:** Lucy said she noticed areas at the fire station that need attention. Fire Chief, Tim Howe, said the floor in the meeting room has tiles that are popping up. The roof is leaking up stairs and in the meeting room which damaged some of the BOH masks and gloves. Kevin said this has been an on-going issue, and he does not know where the leaks are coming from and suggests hiring a roofing company. Brad said there is valuable equipment in that building and doesn't want let to see this problem get worse. Also said to look into roofing company but this is bad time. Lucy suggested that being budget season to put some money aside for July for the roof repairs. Tim will look around for a roofing company. Tim also reported that the fire station has 2 new members that qualify and will do the paperwork for them to get appointed if all continues well.

**Town Accountant request to work from home:** The BOS all agree to make accommodations for the town accountant to work from home. Don said it is not open ended and needs to include parameters on it. Brad said to wait to see what it will be after surgery. Lucy said the board will revisit this situation after 3<sup>rd</sup> week of recovery, end of February. Also, the BOS will provide Tom with FMLA papers. Don made motion that if paperwork needs a signature, it be the BOS Chairman, Lucy Tessnau, Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lucy all in favor.

**Discussion of mandate mask wearing in Town Hall:** The BOS are not mandating mask wearing but are respectfully requesting masks be worn in all municipal buildings to keep all the employees safe to continue to do their jobs.

**Budget:** The BOS have received some of the budgets for FY23. The BOS reviewed and made their budget requests for FY23. The BOS reviewed the BOH budget request.

**New Business:** No new business to report.

**Old Business:** New storage container will be delivered this week. Maribel has called Eagle leasing (for the storage unit that's rented) company and they will be picking up their unit this week also.

Sam, library director came to the BOS regarding the company they use at the library to run computers, Useful. She has heard that the company might be closing but hasn't had confirmation on that. The current rate to run all 6 computers at the library is \$1,194.00 this year plus \$40/month for internet. Sam got a quote from CMGeeks, the IT the town uses and it was much pricier than the current company. The quote was \$240.00/yr to manage the 6 computers, \$240.00 for software, \$1500.00 for setup fee and \$4,500.00ish for new computers. The main computer at the library needs to be replaced. Useful says it should have been replaced 2 years ago, and that they won't provide another year of service unless replaced this year. The replacement of the computer through Useful is \$2,000.00. Sam was initially wondering if she should switch to CMGeeks for service but even with the cost of replacing the computer and the yearly fee, plus monthly internet bill it would be much more cost efficient to continue with Useful. In regards to the possibility of Useful closing until it's confirmed and official the library will continue with them for their service.

Maribel informed the BOS that she has contacted Republic Services with the follow up questions from previous meeting. The competitive price will be for a year and then when the time comes we can reevaluate. Maribel has requested for that to be put in writing and sent over via email. Also, we are in an existing contract that self-renews every 36 months. It would renew in June of 2023. Maribel also has asked for a copy of the contract be emailed to her. The account manager from Republic Services said she would.

**Public Session:** Sue Shays updated the BOS that there is a contract from Spectrum (cable/internet) for broadband. Sue will email the contract to the BOS to review and to send to

legal counsel to review as well. Sue reported that the cost was about \$10,000.000 cheaper than expected.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:59 PM:** Lucy made motion to adjourn, Don 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brad all in favor.

Nex Regular Meeting: January 24, 2022 at 6:00 PM