

**Town of Stratton  
Selectmen's Meeting  
October 23, 2023**

**Present:** Selectmen: Al Dupell, chair, Larry Bills, Chris Liller, Greg Marcucci and Boomer Walker; Alyson Peterson – Treasurer, John Brissette of HUB International, NE; Steve Petrik and Michael Garber of SoVTA; Tim Jones of Green Mountain Power; and Kent Young, Clerk.

7:30pm: Al Dupell called the meeting to order. Orders were reviewed and signed.

**Modifications:** The Selectmen agreed to add the following issues: 1) Discussion of Town Forest Snowmobile maintenance 2) Consideration of Listers' Error and Omissions 3) Consider approval of BCA Meeting Minutes and 4) Discuss underground power options by Green Mountain Power along upper end of Mountain Rd. The Selectmen agreed to modify the agenda, as stated.

**Insurances:** John Brissette of HUB International, NEW England was present to offer property and all typical forms of risk insurance to the Town, in place of the VLCT PACIF policy the Town is currently insured under. Various questions and concerns were raised regarding a potential change. VLCT currently insures all towns within Vermont and works closely with towns regarding a wide range of needs. The Treasurer stated that the VLCT renewal was due October 13, 2023 and had already been completed, but if the Town wished to consider other options, a formal notice of intent would have to be submitted to VLCT PACIF by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Such notice of intent would allow the Town to shop the 2024 term and would prevent VLCT from binding coverage until a decision is made. It was noted that VLCT PACIF offers the Town many resources beyond insurance, including legal assistance, training, grants, and legislative updates. Following his presentation, Mr. Brissette left the meeting. Following a general discussion, the Selectmen agreed to continue with VLCT PACIF. Greg Marcucci so moved. Boomer Walker seconded – all concurred. The Treasurer then asked if the Selectmen approved of renewing the Blue Cross Blue Shield Employee Health Insurance package, with the Health Equity HRA, that is in place. Following a discussion, Larry Bills moved to renew with no changes. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred. At this time, Alyson Peterson left the meeting.

**Town Forest Snowmobile Trail and SoVTA trail work:** Steve Petrik and Mike Garber were present to inform the Selectmen that trail work within the Town Forest is complete and the trails are now open to the public. The Clerk stated that Gary Montemagni had called to inform him that he will be bringing in an excavator for snowmobile trail maintenance. The board addressed a concern that this parcel is now covered by an ANR permit for the installation of the SoVTA trails. Any excavating work will need to be discussed first, so that it will not violate the permit. Al Dupell asked the Clerk to have Mr. Montemagni attend a Selectmen's meeting before proceeding with any work. The Clerk agreed. It was also stated that the property owners using that snowmobile trail should have a written agreement with the town for use and maintenance. The Board agreed. Boomer Walker agreed to talk with Gary Montemagni as well. Following the discussion, Mr. Petrik and Mr. Garber left the meeting.

**Green Mountain Power:** Tim Jones of Green Mountain Power was present to discuss the option of installing new power lines from the Sun Bowl down to 354 Mountain Rd. underground. GMP is attempting to use various methods, including underground power installations to increase resiliency of the grid in this area. The Road Foreman had concerns regarding placement in the Town Road Right-of-Way, regarding depth, placement under ditching, culvert issues and ledge issues all along that route. Mr. Jones explained the plan and the process and said that GMP would like to do a site evaluate along the length of the installation first, with the Road Foreman, before committing to it. The Road Foreman and the rest of the Board agreed that this should happen before the Town would approve of the project. Following the discussion, Tim Jones left the meeting.

**Road Crew Issues: Winter Schedule:** Chris Liller presented a plowing call-in schedule for the road crew for this winter. **Paving:** Chris Liller stated that Fuller Sand and Gravel is currently finalizing pavement issues on the Access Rd. and that patch paving throughout the rest of town will be subcontracted by Fuller,

so that it can be completed this week. There had been an issue with line painting, which resulted in grinding off misplaced lines through the resort center and then repainting said lines correctly – all at the expense of the Line Painting contractor. **Grout Pond Rd.:** The proposed project to be covered by a FLAP grant has been calculated at \$769,000.00 by WRC. Chris Liller moved to support said proposal for submittal. Greg Marcucci seconded. All concurred. **Garage Generator:** Powers generating had submitted a repair contract to repair said generator. The Board concurred and Al Dupell signed the paperwork. Chris Liller stated that he would like the Town to start budgeting for its replacement. **Holiday Leave:** Chris Liller asked permission for the Road Crew to switch their Veteran’s Day holiday for the day after Thanksgiving. The Board approved the change. **Penny Ave: complaint:** The Selectmen reviewed a letter from Joe Sorentino, a property owner along said road, who complained about speeders along said road and suggested speed bumps. The Selectmen do not intend to install speed bumps on a dirt road.

**Town Hall Usage:** The Selectmen agreed to allow Chris and Devon Marcucci the use of the Town Hall on October 29, 2023. Boomer Walker so moved. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred.

**Minutes:** Greg Marcucci moved to approve the Selectmen’s minutes of September 25, 2023. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred.

**BCA Minutes:** Selectboard members present at the October 17, 2023 BCA Meeting, which concluded the BCA appeal of assessment process, reviewed minutes of said meeting. Boomer Walker moved to approve the minute. Greg Marcucci seconded – all present concurred.

**Listers’ Errors and Omissions:** The Selectmen considered an Errors and Omissions adjustment to the 2023 / 4 Grand List approved and submitted by the Listers. During the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) Appeals process following the grievances of 2023, it was discovered that an error existed with the floorplans of Pinnacle Units within the Solstice Project at the Ski Resort. Said plans had been shown as the larger floorplans of the Equinox Units. This error was corrected and applied by the BCA, in their results for the appeal of the Serkos, owners of a Pinnacle Unit. The Assessor recommended and has since made this same change to the square footage of the remaining 47 units. Resultant assessment changes vary among these units, depending on other factors affecting the value of each unit. The Listers presented the Errors and Omissions forms (PVR-4261-E) for these 47 units. This change to the Grand List reduces these units’ combined assessments from \$73,681,300.00 down to \$59,841,300.00 – a difference of \$13,840,000.00. Boomer Walker moved to approve. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred and all signed the form (see said Errors and Omissions form for details of said changes).

**Adjourn:** Larry Bills moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. Boomer Walker seconded – all concurred and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

*David Kent Young*