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July 23, 2013

APPROVED

Emergency Informational Meeting of the Selectboard
July 9, 2013
Huntington Office Downstairs

Title 1 V.S.A. § 312(c)(3)

(3) "Emergency meetings may be held without public announcement, without posting of notices and without 24-hour notice to members, provided some public notice thereof is given as soon as possible before any such meeting. Emergency meetings may be held only when necessary to respond to an unforeseen occurrence or condition requiring immediate attention by the public body."

Present: Doug Graver, Jim Christiansen, Dori Barton, Yogi Alger, Heidi Racht, Mary Keller-Butler

Minutes: Heidi Racht

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss flood damage due to storms on July 3 and 4 and to bring Jim Christiansen, who was out of town, up to date.

The meeting was chaired by Jim Christiansen.

ACTION ITEM: Doug Graver is shepherding the Injury Report (afka Accident Report) for Yogi Alger's accident on July 3 through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT).

It was noted that there was an initial report filed last week, but the time and location of the accident may have been incorrect.

ACTION ITEM: Alger said he would contact Kathy at VLCT and make the correction.

Graver reported that the Huntington Woods Fire District Water System is running as of 4:15 pm on July 7. The residents of Huntington Woods and Roberts Park are all on boil water notice. The Army Guard water buffalo is still there and will remain until the end of the week. Jim Barth, president of the HWFD, got an emergency loan from the State Water Department to fix the system. He will submit expenses to the town to put into the report to FEMA, knowing that there is no certainty of Federal funds for the project.

ACTION ITEM: Graver will ask Barth to submit photos of the damage and the repairs to water system.

FEMA representatives are coming either July 9 or 10 to inspect the damage.

Emergency Shelter:

Larry Detweiler has expressed concern about the depth of the Emergency Shelter Committee in the near future with the absence of Barbara Elliott, who is on vacation until July 21; Heidi Racht's absence July 13-19; Yogi Alger's vacation July 15-22; and Detweiler's

vacation July 8-17. He plans to talk to Spencer Hill about taking the helm. Christiansen offered to be the back up.

Emergency Plan:

Christiansen informed the group that there is an emergency plan in place. It is located in the binder on the black file cabinet behind the Town Administrator's desk. There was some discussion about making this information available, so it can be quickly implemented. Christiansen talked about a one-page laminated sheet with contact information; Racht said she would like to have a four-deep plan of command.

FEMA discussion:

Alger reported there was plenty of photo documentation, taken by himself and others. Mary Keller-Butler has developed a folder of the photos that have been sent to the town, organized by road. Aaron Worthley has set up a link.

Alger reported that he is waiting for invoices from the contractors. He said that documentation of labor, time, materials and equipment is being organized by roads.

Christiansen said he wanted to look at "what held up and what didn't hold up" from the previous recent repairs. He asked Alger about the schedule of repairs.

Alger discussed how the damage from tree limbs from logging and debris from residential construction had plugged culverts. This debris had been carried down the ditches by the heavy rain, blocking the culverts and diverting the water. He said that he planned to have all roads open to two lanes by Thursday, end of day. The ditches, though, are "sketchy," and need more clearing out. Also, the shoulders of the road and the ditches are still "unsafe" and drivers need to be careful.

During Alger's vacation, the crew (aka The Boys) will put 1.5" gravel finish on the roads and keep the roads "passable."

More culverts are on order and the plan is to install larger culverts.

By the end of the week, the following projects should be done:

- John Scott and crew, Happy Hollow;
- Craig Cowles, Handy Road and Bert White Road;
- Jeff Palin, Moody Road;
- Ted Palmer, Sherman Hollow Road.

Dori Barton joined the meeting. She reported that FEMA is likely to declare this a disaster, due to over \$1 million in damages, statewide. However, there has been no word from Governor Shumlin about the State's matching funds.

Keller-Butler informed the group that she had filed initial State Emergency Management paperwork on Monday. Christiansen said he wanted to develop a plan for dealing with

FEMA. Barton said she wanted to discuss with FEMA about "how much we can upgrade." She gave hypothetical examples of increasing culverts from 8" to 12" and increasing cross-drainage. Alger responded that installing cross-drainage needs owner permission. Barton said that this was an opportunity to get bigger culverts – certainly, nothing smaller.

Alger added that road problems on Economou Road as a result of the last storm had a similar genesis. The debris gets washed down with the water, blocking the culverts. He stated, "People need to take care of their culverts."

Graver asked, "How do we get people to take care of their culverts?" Alger talked about the need to also clear ditches. If there isn't debris getting washed down, then the water can pass through. He praised John Durochia, a resident of Happy Hollow, who "saved Happy Hollow" by keeping the culverts on the road open with his tractor.

Racht said that the issue of the ends of driveways was one of presentation. Property owners are told that the town will take care of the culverts after one year and it is safe to say that people then expect to not have to work on their culverts or ditches. Further discussion on the topic was inconclusive.

Alger then said that there were estimates that 3.5" of rain fell in Roberts Park and as much as 5" fell in the area of Happy Hollow – this was in less than one hour. And, Huntington Center was relatively unscathed. In fact, when Alger headed down to the Lower Village, the sky was clear in the Center. He described the water coming down the center of Happy Hollow as being "like a brook coming down and pushing the gravel ahead of it." All of the road ended up on Gillette Pond Road.

Christiansen talked about FEMA funds for pieces of pavement damage on East Street, Main Road, Hinesburg Hollow Road. He said there was a "ton of work to bring it back" and told Alger that he did not want to just do a touch up here and there. It was important for the town to let FEMA know that "we won't settle for touch-ups."

Barton responded that the town has to demonstrate a history of problems – Economou Road has met this criteria, in her opinion, for upgrading measures such as bigger culvert sizes and cross drainage.

She then went on to say that fabricating the ditches was a "disaster." Alger concurred that all it did was provide a slide for the stones to travel on.

Joe Segale, former Selectboard member and Vermont AOT engineer, has offered to meet with the Selectboard about Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help evaluate what has been used and how effective it is. Huntington could be a study for these practices which are theoretical or done on small-scale project-by-project throughout the state: what happens and why things fail.

ACTION ITEM: Barton will respond to Segale and invite him to the next Selectboard meeting.

In more FEMA discussion, Christiansen talked about looking at upgrades and making the time now to start talking about BMPs. Alger added that FEMA will look at all the damage as opposed to each individual project.

Graver said that Donna Lewis approached the town about having an appreciation event for everyone who worked on this dramatic and all-encompassing episode in the town's history. Lewis asked for the town to purchase the food that she and others would prepare and serve.

After some discussion, the group came up with Thursday, July 25, for supper for the workers and their families.

ACTION ITEM: Graver will contact Lewis with the date.

Alger informed the group about the scheduled work to be done on paving the first mile of the Main Road, beginning on Thursday.

ACTION ITEM: Racht will send out an email with information about the Main Road paving separate from updates on flood repairs.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 am.

MINUTES SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD: July 10, 2013

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE SELECTBOARD: July 22, 2013

APPROVED MINUTES SENT TO THE TOWN CLERK FOR RECORDING: July 23, 2013