

Town of Sorrento
Board of Selectpersons Minutes
Town Office 1/17/24

Attending: Hilly Crary (chair), Rob Wilpan (deputy chair), Diana Gazis, 7 observers in person, and also several observers on ZOOM.

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The chair gave the good news that Sorrento had less storm damage than other waterfront communities, that 6 to 8 people from Ready Seafood had joined the volunteer clean-up crew removing debris (two truckloads of it) from the area from the dock to the landing, that we had finally received our \$4000 credit from TRIO, and that we had received a nice thank-you letter from the Sorrento Scholarship Fund.

Adjustments. No adjustments were added to the agenda.

Minutes of the 1/3/24 Selectboard meeting. The minutes of the previous selectboard meeting were approved as edited. The motion to approve was made by Rob Wilpan, seconded by Diana Gazis, and passed, Wilpan aye, Crary aye, Gazis aye.

Disbursement warrant #14. A motion to approve the disbursement warrant was made by Rob Wilpan, seconded by Diana Gazis, Gazis aye, Crary aye, Wilpan aye. The warrant was then signed by the selectpersons.

Procurement Policy. A proposed draft for a procurement policy was discussed, with questions as to the dollar limits used in the draft, the permissions needed before vendor selection and payment could be made, and how the chain of authority in specific situations could be made more explicit. The selectpersons decided that the draft should be sent to a few more people for comments before being finalized. Gazis then made a motion, seconded by Wilpan, to table the discussion until the next selectboard meeting. The motion passed: Gazis aye, Crary aye, Wilpan aye.

Approval of the admission of Charles Bennett to the Comprehensive Planning Committee. It was moved by Crary, seconded by Gazis, and passed (Gazis aye, Crary aye, Wilpan aye) that Charles Bennett be made a member of the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

Changes to the Land Use Ordinance. The state has enacted a new housing ordinance intended to increase the amount of affordable housing. This ordinance will come in force in July and will apply to all communities unless they have previously adopted a zoning ordinance that covers the material in the state housing ordinance. Most of the new ordinance does not apply to Sorrento, because unlike larger towns, we do not provide water or sewage service to the residents. Two portions of the ordinance do apply, and we need to write and adopt an ordinance more tailored to our specific circumstances than the state ordinance before the state deadline occurs. These issues were discussed - - mainly the adoption of accessory housing units and what this would mean. Our proposed ordinance would need public discussion before it could be voted on. Therefore, the selectboard made a motion to hold a public hearing on the subject at 7PM on Wednesday, February 28. Motion made by Crary, seconded by Gazis, Crary aye, Gazis aye, Wilpan aye.

Singer Shoreland Plan John Singer submitted a plan to prune the vegetation on the shoreland (owned by the town) opposite his house. The plan was made by an accredited forester and examined by our shoreland zoning officer, Michael Gurtler. After discussion of the plan, its acceptance was postponed until Gurtler can see the final copy.

Storm Damage How to repair the storm damage to our roads and how to change them in a way that would lessen future storm damage was discussed. We have filled out and sent in the report on storm damage that the state has asked for. We have also received two bids for repair. The selectboard voted to accept the bid by RF Jordan for immediate repair and table discussion and acceptance of its bid on later, permanent repair. Hilly proposed this motion, Gazis seconded it, Gazis aye, Crary aye, Wilpan aye.

Public Comments on Agenda Items. There were no public comments on agenda items.

Meeting Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.