

Weathersfield Select Board
Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2014
Approved 9/2/2014

Present: N. John Arrison
David Fuller
Daniel Boyer
Richard Clattenburg

Absent: C. Peter Cole

Others Present: Jim Mullen
Edith Stillson
Paulette Allen
John Gardner
Bette Jo Esty
Olivette and Ed May
Westley Hazeltine
Jerry Oulette
Shirley Oulette
Michael Reese
Chuck Wise
Michael Todd

1. Call to Order

Chairman Arrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Martin Memorial Hall.

2. Comments from Select Board and Citizens on topics not on agenda

The Veterans Memorial Committee will be hosting their annual chicken barbeque fundraiser on Saturday, September 27 from 11AM until sold out at Martin Memorial Hall.

The Veterans Memorial Committee seeks the names of all veterans who have entered the military as residents of Weathersfield for inclusion on the Roll of Honor at the monument in Perkinsville.

3. Review Minutes from previous meetings (August 4, 2014)

Motion: to accept the minutes of August 4, 2014 as presented.

Made by: Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mr. Fuller **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

4. Receive general comments on whether to discontinue Town Highway #81 – a Class 4 highway adjacent to Gravelin Road

Three of the four affected landowners were present to state their comments regarding Town Highway #81. The Oulettes would like to sell their property, but feel the presence of the road will make that difficult. Mrs. Allen stated that the road consumes most of her back yard and that both her leach field and a corner of her foundation are actually in the road.

Motion: The Select Board will view the premises of Town Highway #81 on October 6, 2014 at 6:30 PM. The Select Board will conduct a public hearing at Martin Memorial Hall on the

proposed discontinuance of Town Highway #81 immediately following the site visit on October 6.

Made by: Mr. Clattenburg **Second:** Mr. Boyer **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

5. Public Hearing 1 of 2: Amendment to both the Economic Development and the Utilities & Facilities Chapters of the Town Plan

Planning Board Chair, Michael Todd, and Zoning Administrator, Chuck Wise, were in attendance to present the amended chapters.

Mr. Todd said the amendments are based on substantial input from the public. The Economic Development chapter recognizes that home-based businesses are the most desired form of economic development for Weathersfield and stresses the importance of retaining the town's rural and historic character. The chapter is organized to cover all of the elements required by the state statutes for the chapter.

Mr. Todd said that the Utilities and Facilities chapter was updated with data provided by Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Wise highlighted the section on cell towers, which calls for a change in policy from requiring single, very tall towers that can accommodate multiple tenants and "aggressively break the canopy" to multiple, smaller towers that will barely protrude above the canopy. The consensus of the Commission is that lowering the towers instead of attempting to camouflage very tall towers will be more successful in integrating them into the rural landscape. This Plan language will assist the Public Service Board in reviewing future tower applications in Weathersfield.

Motion: To move the Economic Development and Utilities & Facilities chapters to a second hearing on October 15th at 7 PM at the West Weathersfield Fire Station.

Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Clattenburg **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

6. Update from the 1879 Perkinsville Schoolhouse Committee

BJ Esty said that the Committee has met several times since the committee was formed. The outside of the school has been cleaned up nicely and the plywood has been removed from the inside of the windows, making the building look much inviting and pleasant. Many people have been using Hoisington Field all summer.

The Committee would like to pursue:

- Energy audit for the building;
- Remediation of the mold issue in the basement;
- Code issues;
- Fundraising and grant procurement.

If funds are available from the demolition of the 1954 and 1969 additions, the Committee feels that finishing installation of the water and electrical systems and replacement of the handrail on the ramp would be eligible projects to be funded as they are directly related to the demolition of the other buildings.

The Parks & Recreation Commission has agreed to fund construction of a new, handicapped bathroom that would be accessible from the outside of the building.

The Historical Society is soliciting donations from its members to help pay for the projects.

Many volunteers are waiting to help. The Committee is planning fundraising events and applying for a Historic Preservation grant.

There is a balance of \$16,431 from the demolition project. However, spending of those funds must be in accordance with the article that was voted on. Mr. Fuller stated that the Board should consider putting an article on the ballot for March Town Meeting to “get it done”.

No action was taken.

7. Second Reading: Policy on Cell Phone Usage in a Vehicle

The strong language regarding disciplinary action was stricken at the last reading.

The Town Manager will research current state laws regarding the use of cell phones in vehicles. This policy may not be necessary if state law already covers it.

Motion: To move the policy to the third reading.

Made by: Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mr. Fuller **Vote:** Unanimous

8. Aesthetics of cell tower in Ascutney behind Strobel’s Service Station

The company is in violation of their permit because the cell tower in Ascutney does not look like what was promised. A previous attempt to communicate with the company (when the pole was white) was unsuccessful (no response was received).

Motion: The Select Board directs the Town Manager to write a letter to the company that is constructing the tower inquiring (a) about the differences in the appearance of the proposed and constructed towers and (b) if they are finished with the tower. Pictures of the proposed and constructed towers are to be included with the letter. A copy of the letter is to be sent to the Public Service Board.

Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Boyer **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

9. FY2014 Year End Financial Reports

The auditors are currently working on the Town’s accounts. The Town’s accountant has provided a year-end “snapshot” of the town’s financial standing for the Select Board to review. It was noted that certain items appear to “skew” the numbers and how difficult it can be to track income vs. expense when funding sources such as grants and FEMA money are involved.

Town Manager Jim Mullen said the Board had planned to lower the general fund balance by \$133,900. It has been lowered by \$130,000.

HazMat bills that are mailed out show as income at the time the bills go out. There can be considerable time between the time between the income and expense lines because of this practice. There can be a substantial time lag before the money is actually received.

The Board had planned to end the year with a Reserve Fund balance of \$135,030. The goal was exceeded by \$40,267, mainly because of two projects that have not yet been undertaken (Maple Street and re-appraisal).

Highway Funds – the Board had planned to end the year with a \$0 fund balance. There is actually a negative balance of \$1,948.

The highway grant fund ended the year with a surplus of \$234,368. This represents grant funds that we have not yet received for BB Bridge Revenue, the Maple Street project, the two Baltimore Road culvert projects, and 2013 flood funding from FEMA. These funds will be booked in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Note – these funds are separate from the highway funds. In the future, all projects will be run through the grant fund, so the account reporting won't be so confusing.

These figures are draft only – final figures will be available when the auditors finish their audit.

10. Project Updates

- **Tarbell Hill Road**
 - o **NRCS Grant Project** – as soon as the Army Corps approves the permit for the project, it will be sent out to bid. We have an extension to be able to get the project done this fall.
 - o **Looking into grant sources for an engineering study of lower reach of brook** - The NRCS grant is for the stretch of the brook along the lower third of the road. The remaining portion includes the section from the four houses at the intersection, the state highway bridge, and the section toward Mr. Fuller's field. The four homeowners at the intersection have continuously complained about flooding issues. The Regional Planning Commission has located a possible grant from FEMA for engineering. They needed an engineering firm to give a scope of work and budget figure for this type of study. Mike Smith from Weston and Sampson has given us a proposed scope of work and a budget number to use in a request for proposals. The next steps are up to Regional Planning.
- **Thrasher Road Culvert #3** – We are waiting for the stream alteration permit. The Town will do the work on this project.
- **Maple Street Reconstruction Project** – No report.
- **Project for trail access to Town Forest** – Bob Farnsworth has completed the required survey work. Willis Wood and Mr. Boyer have completed the sketch plan review with the Planning Commission for the subdivision of five acres into two lots to create the trailhead parking area. Final plat approval is scheduled for Sept. 8. The surveyor discovered that one of the I-91 granite monuments is 30 feet west of the (highway) fence. This land is owned by the State. With permission from the State, this strip of land might be used to provide access to the forest without having to cross Charlie Johnson's land.

11. Appointments

There were no appointments to be made.

12. Approve Warrants:

Motion: To approve the town warrants as of August 19, 2014 as follows:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$39,493.07
	Payroll	\$19,193.22
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$19,892.30
	Payroll	\$12,722.65

Solid Waste Management Fund

	Operating Expenses	\$8,198.55
	Payroll	\$1,466.80
Library	Operating Expenses	\$285.98
Grants		\$0.00
Agency Monies		\$0.00
Reserves		\$225.00

Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Clattenburg **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

13. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Arrison asked that the Crown Point Road be added to the next meeting’s agenda.

14. Executive Session

Motion: To go into executive session to discuss negotiating a real estate option.

Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Boyer **Vote:** Unanimous

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:37 PM. No action was taken.

Adjourn

Motion: to adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Mr. Clattenburg **Second:** Mr. Boyer **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

N. John Arrison, Chairperson

David T. Fuller, Selector

Daniel E. Boyer, Vice-Chairperson

C. Peter Cole, Selector

Richard N. Clattenburg, Selector