

**Weathersfield Select Board**  
Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2014  
Approved 10/6/2014

**Present:** N. John Arrison  
David Fuller  
Daniel Boyer  
Richard Clattenburg  
C. Peter Cole

**Others Present:** Jim Mullen  
Edith Stillson  
Wes Hazeltine  
Francis Bingham  
Julia Lloyd Wright  
Michael Todd  
Charles Wise  
Gil Whittemore  
Cookie & Ernie Shand  
Melanie Sheehan  
Grace Knight

**Call to Order**

Chairman Arrison called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM at the West Weathersfield Volunteer Fire Station.

Mr. Arrison announced that the Weathersfield Food Shelf sign has been stolen and asked if anyone has seen it, would they please return it.

The school is holding a public forum on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 6-8PM, to discuss buses, curriculum and other topics.

Mr. Arrison called for a moment of silence in honor of Roger Eastman (oldest living veteran in Town) and Bob Dodge (local businessperson), who have both recently passed away.

**1. Comments from Select Board and Citizens on topics not on agenda**

Julia Lloyd Wright announced an Energy Forum will be held Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6-7:30 PM at Martin Hall.

**2. Review Minutes from previous meetings (September 2, 2014)**

**Motion:** to accept the minutes of September 2, 2014 as presented.

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

Mr. Fuller and Mr. Arrison said they had heard there is confusion regarding the discussion that took place at the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of re-funding a Vermont Bond Bank bond. Mr. Fuller stated that the Town is not refinancing a fire truck, but rather re-funding a bond.

**3. Public Hearing: Reclassify Asa Grout Lane from a Class 4 Town Highway to a Class 3 Town Highway**

Mr. Arrison re-opened the public hearing. The board conducted a site visit on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Town Manager, Jim Mullen, submitted potential findings of facts to the board. The board took a moment to review them.

Mr. Hazeltine said that the proposed turn-around will need to be 50 ft. wide by 40 ft. deep for the grader to be able to turn around. The turn-around will be contained within the town-owned right-of way.

**Motion:** To extend the hearing to November 3, 2014 at 7:00 PM at Martin Hall to give the contractor time to get the work done.

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Fuller stated that the landowners should make the improvements to the road before the board votes to reclassify it. He said this is the way it has been done in the past. In this way, the board can be assured that the road will meet highway specifications before voting to reclassify it. Mr. Clattenburg agreed with Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Arrison said that condition #9 of the (proposed) decision says that the road won't be re-classified until the improvements are made and approved.

Mr. Bingham said he needed assurance that the board will accept the work before they spend the money to make the improvements. He was also concerned that the standards are continually changing (referring to the dimensions of the turn-around).

Mr. Fuller asked what the consequences would be if the hearing were to be closed this evening. Would the road be re-classified?

The consensus of the board was that the actual dimensions of the turn-around were less important than that the grader and the fire trucks be able to turn-around.

**Vote:** Boyer, Clattenburg, Fuller, Cole - in favor; Arrison – opposed: motion carries.

**4. Public Hearing 2 of 2: Amendments to both the Economic Development and the Utilities & Facilities Chapters of the Town Plan**

**Motion:** To close the hearing and adopt both chapters as presented

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

**5. Approve submission of a Municipal Planning Grant application**

Mr. Todd said the Planning Board would like to apply for a MPG of \$8,000 (no match required) to rewrite the zoning bylaws.

**Motion:** To approve submission of the MPG application in the amount of \$8,000 for the rewriting of the zoning bylaws

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

**Approve Grace Knight Fireworks Display Permit (Item #11, taken out of order)**

Mrs. Knight is applying for a permit to have a fireworks display on November 1, 2014, 6:40 – 7:10 PM at 328 Gravelin Road. Mrs. Knight asked that the approval include a “rain date” of October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion:** To approve the application for a November 1<sup>st</sup> display with a rain date of October 31<sup>st</sup>

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

Mrs. Knight will be responsible for notifying the Fire Department.

**6. Issue Request for Proposals to erect solar panels at Transfer Station**

**Motion:** To issue the Request for Proposals for the Weathersfield Transfer Station PV Project

**Made by:** Mr. Cole      **Second:** Mr. Arrison

**Discussion:** After December 31<sup>st</sup>, the incentive premium drops by \$0.02 per Kw hour, which is substantial over the life of the system. The project would cover 100% of the transfer station electric bill (\$1500/year). The companies that respond to the proposal would be responsible for the design of the system. Dave Bonta estimates the cost would be \$9-10,000 after the incentives of \$1/watt (municipal incentive) are applied. The exact amount won't be known until the proposals are received. The panels would be placed on the shed that houses the bobcat on the north side of the facility. The shed is south facing. The angle of the roof is appropriate.

There is \$54,000 in the reserve fund. The state requires that \$24,000 be kept in the account in case the station has to close. Pay back would be 6 – 7 years.

Mr. Clattenburg said that a new roof should be included in the total project cost. (Mr. Hazeltine said that the roof is about 20 years old.)

Mr. Fuller said he wanted more time to study the proposal. He also said that the money in the reserve fund is only supposed to be used for capping the landfill – not for capital improvements.

**Vote:** Clattenburg, Arrison, Boyer, Cole – in favor; Fuller – opposed: motion carries.

Mr. Mullen will have a professional roofer look at the roof and render an opinion on its condition.

**7. Offer Group D VMERS Plan for Police Department Employees**

**Motion:** To approve moving the police personnel with full time benefits from VMERS Group C Plan to VMERS Group D Plan.

**Made by:** Mr. Clattenburg      **Second:** Mr. Boyer      **Vote:** The motion was withdrawn

**Discussion:** The application must be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> ; the change would become effective July 2015 (next fiscal year).

At present, the Town Manager and the Police are enrolled in VMERS Group C; everyone else is enrolled in Group B.

The consensus was that this change is important in attracting quality police personnel and that it recognizes the hazardous nature of police work.

The annual increase in cost to the town would be \$2,928.20 to change to Plan D.

**Motion:** To apply by September 30<sup>th</sup> for enrollment in VMERS Group Plan D for fulltime police department personnel with an effective date of July 1, 2015.

**Made by:** Mr. Clattenburg      **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Vote:** Clattenburg, Fuller, Boyer, Cole – in favor; Arrison – opposed: motion carries.

**8. Request Joint Meeting with School Board**

**a. Budget Goals for FY16**

**b. Effect on Town from any changes to school district busing**

Losing the Town's buses will have substantial impact on the highway budget. Mr. Fuller urged the board and others to get involved in the discussions regarding changes that the WSSU is proposing.

Mr. Arrison will arrange for a joint meeting with the school board for October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Approve WWFD Boot Drop**

**Motion:** To grant the request for the WWFD boot drop on October 11<sup>th</sup> (no rain date)

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

**10. Need for a vote on tax exemptions for two Granges**

Voting to exempt Hawk's Mountain Grange and Connecticut River Grange was overlooked at 2014 Town Meeting, according to the Listers.

**11. (Taken up previously)**

**12. Approve submission of 1879 Perkinsville School House grant application**

**Motion:** To approve submission of the grant application

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

**13. Final Reading: Amend Purchasing Policy**

**Motion:** To approve

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

**14. Ascutney Cell Tower**

No response has been received from the tower owner regarding aesthetics of the cell tower in Ascutney behind Strobel's Service Station.

**Motion:** To direct the Town Manager to write a letter to the Public Service Board declaring that this tower is in violation of its permit.

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

**15. Award Bids:**

**a. Airport Road Reconstruction Project**

**Motion:** To award a contract to Bazin Brothers Trucking, Inc. for the lump sum of \$185,345.00 to reconstruct Airport Road in Weathersfield and Springfield as described

in the Town's 8/18/14 "Request for Bids, Airport Road Reconstruction Project", and Bazin Brothers Trucking's 9/11/14 "Bid Response Form", subject to the condition that Bazin Brothers Trucking, Inc. provide the Town with a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract price as well as a Certificate of Insurance.

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

**b. Tarbell Hill Stream Stabilization Project**

**Motion:** To award a contract to A. S. Clark & Sons for the lump sum of \$52,550.00 to stabilize the brook along Tarbell Hill Road as described in the Town's 8/28/14 "Request for Bids, Tarbell Hill Road Channel Stabilization Project", and A.S. Clark & Sons' 9/11/14 "Bid Response Form".

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

**16. Project updates:**

**a. Thrasher Road Culvert #3**

The stream alteration permit has been approved. A permit from the Army Corps of Engineers is in process.

**b. Maple Street Reconstruction Project**

No report.

**c. Project for trail access to Town Forest**

The wetlands are currently being delineated.

**17. Appointments**

None.

**18. Approve Warrants:**

**Motion:** To approve the town warrants for the meeting of September 15, 2014 as follows:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$34,659.77
	Payroll	\$18,762.86
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$29,519.88
	Payroll	\$12,700.09
Solid Waste Management Fund	Operating Expenses	\$7,120.60
	Payroll	\$1,505.07
Library	Operating Expenses	\$471.83
Grants		\$211.94
Agency Monies		\$0.00
Reserves		\$325.00

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

**19. Future Agenda Items**

The meeting on October 6 will be at Martin Memorial Hall (following site visit to TH #81 at 6:30 PM).

**20. Executive Session:**

**Motion:** To enter executive session to consider a contract where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage.

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

**21. Adjourn**

**Motion:** to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*deForest Bearse*

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
N. John Arrison, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel E. Boyer, Vice-Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
David T. Fuller, Selector

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Peter Cole, Selector

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard N. Clattenburg, Selector