

Weathersfield Select Board
Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2014
Approved 10/06/2014

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

Others Present: Jim Mullen
Edith Stillson
Katharine Otto (SWCRPC)
John Esty
Steve Shama
Francis Bingham
Steve Hier
Wanda Gropler
Charles Horton

The Board conducted a site visit to TH #81 immediately prior to the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Arrison called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Town of Weathersfield Highway Garage.

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

Mr. Arrison complimented those who got out the vote in opposition to the library bond. He then invited all those who voted against the bond to visit the library to see what's there.

3. Review Minutes from previous meetings (August 19, 2014)

Motion: to accept the minutes of August 19, 2014 as presented.

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

Review minutes of August 18, 2014 (informational meeting)

Motion: To accept the minutes as presented.

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

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

Mr. Arrison opened the public hearing. He explained that the purpose of the hearing was to collect testimony. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board will have finished collecting evidence. The Board walked the road this evening. Test pits have been made to determine how much gravel needs to be added. All of the stakes observed were set at 16 feet. Mr. Arrison

noted that the Board needs to have a comprehensive plan of the required improvements in writing.

Mr. Fuller stated that there was no reason not to move forward in the process. He said that after seeing the trees (along the edge of the road) he no longer believes they will be a problem, except for where there is talk of extending the culvert. He said those trees are softwoods and they are leaning and not as important (as the hardwoods). He said the trees would need to be trimmed. He said that the Boards must review the improvements that have been made on the ground before accepting the road as a Class 3. He said that the Board needs documentation of the culverts on the road (length and capacity) and that the turn-around should be tested with the grader and a fire truck. He felt that the entrance was wide enough.

There was much discussion regarding the design and configuration of the turn-around.

Mr. Clattenburg asked about the existing culverts. Mr. Mullen stated that the first culvert is 24 inches; the second is 18 inches, both of which comply with current standards. Mr. Bingham stated that the bottom culvert has only overtopped once in 38 years and it was because the culvert was frozen all the way through.

Motion: To recess the hearing to the next meeting on September 15 at 7:00 PM at the West Weathersfield Fire Station.

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

Mr. Mullen will write up the findings of fact and provide a written plan of the proposed improvements at the September 15th meeting. The board asked that the turnaround be tested by then as well.

5. **Town Treasurer**

a. **Approve bond refinancing**

Mr. Hier stated that in 2006 the Town participated in a Vermont Bond Bank bond to purchase a fire truck. Because interest rates have changed substantially since then, the Bond Bank is looking to refinance the bond and needs the permission of all of the towns and school districts who participated in the original bond. Our savings will be \$2200 over the course of the next 12 years.

Motion: To approve the bond refinancing.

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

The Board signed the "Municipality Certificate as to Municipal Bond".

b. **Approve Reserve Funds investment change**

Mr. Hier stated that for nine years the Town's reserve funds (currently approximately \$840,000) have been invested through Peoples United Bank Wealth Management Division. Interest rates have declined dramatically since then. Mr. Hier recommended that the Board consider changing how those funds are invested so as to generate a better rate of return.

Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that the Board needs an investment policy before deciding what changes to make. Mr. Hier agreed to provide a draft policy to the Board. He will vet it through the auditors before presenting it.

Motion: To direct Mr. Hier to continue exploring better investment strategies.

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

6. Presentation of updated Road and Bridge/Culvert Inventories and associated Capital Budgets

Katharine Otto from the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission presented the updated inventory to the Board. 71% of the Town's culverts are in good to excellent condition. The remaining culverts are in fair, poor, critical, or urgent condition. At the current funding rate of \$5000 per year (for culvert replacement), 30 culverts in "Poor" condition will remain after 10 years of work. If the annual allocation is increased to \$10,000, no culverts will remain in "Poor" condition (all will have been replaced). Ms. Otto said that the culvert inventory is available in greater detail online at www.vtculverts.org.

The road inventory shows overall the Town is doing well with its roads. However, routine maintenance is critically important to prevent more costly road reconstruction.

7. Offer Group D VMERS Plan for Police Department Employees

Mr. Mullen stated that Police Chief Daniels was enrolled in VMERS Group D at his previous place of employment and he is requesting the same here. VMERS Group D is solely for Police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. Group D requires higher employee and employer contributions and earlier retirement options. At present fulltime Weathersfield police officers are enrolled in VMERS Group C. The Group D plan would require a 3% increase in contribution. Questions arose regarding the definition of "fulltime" and "retirement age" that could not be answered. Mr. Mullen will provide additional information at the next meeting.

8. Explore erecting solar panels at Transfer Station

Mr. Arrison asked the Board to explore the possibility of placing solar panels on the roof at the transfer station. The roof faces south and is at the right angle. The current rate of \$0.06 per Kw hour over the current rate will drop to \$0.04 after December 30, 2014. After the rate drops, the feasibility of the project declines. Any excess power generated can be redirected to any location of choice (could be Martin Hall, the Highway Garage, etc.).

Mr. Arrison asked that the Board consider using \$28,000 from the Transfer Station reserve account for this project (if it is legal to use those funds for such a project).

Motion: To direct the Town Manager to look into the feasibility of erecting a solar array at the Transfer Station.

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

9. Third and Final Reading: Policy on Cell Phone Usage in a Vehicle

Motion: To adopt the policy.

Made by: Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mr. Fuller **Vote:** All were opposed

The policy is not necessary because state law prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving goes into effect on October 1st.

10. Second Reading: Amend Purchasing Policy

Motion: To move the policy to the third reading

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

11. Ascutney Cell Tower

The Town has not received any response to the inquiries regarding the appearance of the cell tower in Ascutney.

12. Project Updates

a. Airport Road Reconstruction Project

A good selection of contractors attended the site visit on August 27th. Recommendations on the bids will be presented at the next meeting. The signed grant agreement has not yet been received. The project may not be completed until next year.

b. Tarbell Hill Road

i. NRCS Channel Stabilization Project

A mandatory site visit is scheduled for September 4th. Bids are due September 11th.

Motion: To approve assurances relating to real property acquisition.

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

ii. Grant Sources for Engineering Study

A new program, "Post-Sandy Experimental Program" provides state funding for mitigation engineering projects. The money is coming to the state in Oct-Nov of this year. Weathersfield is the only town on the list at present based on the scope of work provided by Mike Smith (Weston and Sampson).

c. Thrasher Road Culvert #3

All the necessary permits have been received. Two bids have been received for the excavator work. They are both \$125 per hour. The final choice will be made by Westley Hazeltine.

d. Maple Street Reconstruction Project – no report.

e. Project for trail access to Town Forest

Tomorrow the proposals are due for the wetlands mapping work.

13. Appointments

Weathersfield Proctor Library Trustee – Roderick Bates. (Chelsea Chase seat)

Motion: To appoint Roderick Bates as a Weathersfield Proctor Library Trustee to the next Town Meeting.

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

14. Approve Warrants:

Motion: To approve the town warrants for the meeting of September 2, 2014 as follows:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$32,003.89
	Payroll	\$18,635.80

Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$21,486.10
	Payroll	\$12,556.91
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$6,045.39
	Payroll	\$1,565.19
Library	Operating Expenses	\$90.72
Grants		\$98.73
Agency Monies		\$150.00
Reserves		\$44.22

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

15. Future Agenda Items

The meeting on September 15th will be at the West Weathersfield Fire Station.

16. Adjourn

Motion: to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 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