

Town of Weathersfield
Select Board Meeting
Minutes
February 24, 2014

Board Members Present: Dan Boyer
N. John Arrison
C. Peter Cole
Dave Fuller

Audience: Dave Bonta
Charles Horton
Wanda Gropler
Bonnie D. DuPrey
George Lamb
Alan Hudson
Colby Hodgdon
Jean Merritt
Edith Stillson
Lynn Esty
Ernest Shand
Darrin Spaulding

1. Call to Order

Mr. Boyer called the Weathersfield Select Board meeting to order at 7:04 PM. at Martin Memorial Hall.

2. Comments from Citizens and Select Board Members

Mr. Fuller asked if he could introduce a resolution for vote on Town Meeting floor under "Other Business" regarding food labeling. It is Mr. Fuller's intent to have Town Meeting members provide some form of guidance on this issue to our state legislators. Mr. Cole, who serves as the Town Meeting Moderator, stated that he would have to research the legality of such a request.

Mrs. (BJ) Esty announced that the Weathersfield School would be hosting the 8th-grade science fair on Thursday (February 27) at 7:00 PM, followed by "Weathersfield's Got Talent" at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Horton expressed his disappointment that voting on Article 5, regarding the sale of the Perkinsville 1879 school building, will be done on Town Meeting floor rather than on the ballot the next day. Mr. Horton asserted that there would be a smaller number of people attending Town Meeting than there would be voting the next day. Mr. Arrison assured Mr. Horton that the reasons for this choice would be explained later in the meeting.

Mr. Lamb referred the Board's attention to page 38 of the auditor's report (in the back of the Town Report) regarding reconciliation of the Town's checkbook. Mr. Lamb wanted to know who is responsible for preparing the reconciliation that the auditors have recommended. Mr. Boyer stated that he thought it was Assistant Treasurer, Phil Golding, but that he was not certain.

Mr. Hudson asked if the Town would consider changing the sign at the former Perkinsville School to read "Hoisington Field" instead of "Perkinsville School".

Mrs. (Lynn) Esty announced that a Select Board Candidates Forum would be held at Martin Hall on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

3. Review minutes of Previous Meetings

Mr. Arrison motioned to accept the minutes of February 3, 2014 as presented. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and all were in favor.

4. Regular Business

A. PACE: Conference call regarding PACE

Dave Bonta was in attendance to present and answer questions about the PACE program (in lieu of a conference call). Mr. Bonta explained that the PACE program is basically a long-term funding mechanism to enable sustainable residential energy improvements. Property owners may borrow up to \$30,000 (the eligible amount is based on the value of the property, hence the "property assessed" portion of PACE) for up to 20 years at 2.9%.

Board members expressed the following concerns:

- a. that once into the program, home owners would be required to make a subscribed number of improvements;
- b. that the Town would be exposed to certain liabilities and costs, particularly in the case of default on the loan payments or tax delinquency;
- c. that all contractors hired to perform the improvements must be "certified", thus prohibiting "do-it-yourself" jobs;
- d. that banks holding mortgages on improved properties would not be notified of the additional loan.

Mr. Bonta stated that he would be present at Town Meeting to assist in the presentation of the program.

B. Approve purchase of radios for police department with Homeland Security Grant

It was noted that the grant makes no provision for installation of the radios. Mr. Hazeltine assured the Board that the Highway Department is able to install the radios themselves and that all that would be needed is for the company to tune the antennas. (The same practice is employed by the Ascutney Volunteer Fire Department.) Mr. Cole motioned to approve the purchase of the mobile and portable radios, with the full understanding that the fully executed grant will reimburse the Town of Weathersfield for the full agreed upon amount. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and all were in favor.

C. Town Meeting Preparation

Mr. Mullen presented a draft PowerPoint slide show for Town Meeting. Following the presentation, the Board delegated speaking tasks by article. Delegations were as follow:

(Note: Articles 1-6 are voted on Town Meeting floor)

Articles 1-3: Moderator Cole will call for motions

Article 4: Dave Bonta and Julia Lloyd Wright

Article 5: Mr. Boyer. Mr. Boyer explained to the audience that this article must be voted on the floor, because the Town has previously voted that all money articles must be voted by Australian ballot.

All other articles are to be voted on Town Meeting floor. Since Article 5 does not contain explicitly any money in its wording, it must be voted on the floor. The Town may petition to have this type of article voted by Australian ballot for future town meetings if it so preferred.

Article 6: Moderator Cole will call for a motion

(Note: Articles 7-20 are voted by Australian ballot on March 4th)

Article 7: Mr. Cole

Article 8: Mr. Boyer

Article 9: Mr. Fuller

Article 10: Mr. Arrison

Articles 11, 12: Mr. Fuller

Article 13: Dr. Clattenburg

Articles 14, 15: Mr. Fuller

Article 16, 17: Mr. Arrison

Article 18: Dr. Clattenburg

Article 19: Mr. Arrison & Willis Wood

Article 20: Lynn Esty

D. Update on July 2, 2013 Storm Event: tasks, costs, and VTrans/FEMA reimbursement

The July 2, 2014 rainstorm caused \$252,061 in damages to 16 roads in the northwest part of town and to the Salmond covered bridge. To date, the Town has incurred \$124,694 in expenses and has \$127,367 more in work to do. The work being done will repair damages and make the repaired roads much more resilient to flooding damages in the future.

FEMA is reimbursing the Town for 75% of our expenses (\$184,046); VTrans is reimbursing an additional 15% (37,809). The Town's share is 10% (25,206).

There was much discussion regarding how the expenses are paid in situations where the Town pays expenses up front and then is reimbursed by a grant. Mr. Fuller expressed concern that under this mechanism, the Town would end up with another large surplus at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Mullen explained that general operating funds are used (normal cash flow funds) with expenses charged against a specific line item set up for this purpose. Mr. Fuller felt it would have been better for the Town to have borrowed the necessary funds for the expenses and then use the grant funds to pay back the loan.

E. Adopt Amendments to Weathersfield Roadway and Bridge Standards (final reading)

Mr. Arrison motioned to adopt the 2/24/14 amendments to the Weathersfield Roadway and Bridge Standards. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and all were in favor.

F. Approve Town Highway & Bridge Weight Restrictions for 2014

Mr. Cole motioned to approve the "List of Town Highway and Bridge Weight Restrictions" for 2014. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion. It was noted that the numbers for the Lavigne Bridge don't add up correctly (16,000 lbs vs 6 tons). Mr. Cole withdrew his motion, all agreed. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

G. Approve Notice of Restricted Use of Town Highways for Mud Season

This action will allow Mr. Hazeltine to restrict traffic on roads that are particularly hard hit during mud season to "local traffic only" or "no through traffic". Mr. Fuller motioned to adopt the "Notice of Restricted Use of Town Highways" as presented. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to allow the Highway Superintendent to post all Town roads as appropriate during mud season. Mr. Arrison seconded the motion and all were in favor.

H. Approve appointment of Town Manager as Acting Zoning Administrator

Mr. Arrison motioned to nominate/appoint the Town Manager Jim Mullen as Acting Zoning Administrative Officer for a period of two years. The Acting Zoning Administrative Officer shall have the full power of the Zoning Administrative Officer in the following three circumstances: (1) during any period of time when the position of Zoning Administrative Officer is vacant; (2) whenever the Zoning Administrative Officer is absent from work due to illness or vacation; and (3) whenever the Zoning Administrative Officer cannot act due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and all were in favor.

I. Authorize Select Board Chair to approve 3/3/14 Warrant with ratification by Select Board on 3/6/14.

Mr. Cole motioned to authorize the Select Board Chair to approve the Monday, 3/3/14 Warrant with ratification of the Warrant by the full Select Board to occur at their organizational meeting on Thursday, 3/6/14. Mr. Arrison seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Arrison motioned to ratify the Select Board approval of the Warrant of 2/17/14. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and all were in favor.

5. Board of Liquor Control Commissioners

Mr. Boyer called the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners to order. Mr. Mullen stated that Police Chief Davies had no issues or complaints relative to any of tonight's applicants.

A. Liquor/Tobacco License Renewal

1. Abbott/Brown Inc./dba: Inn at Weathersfield, The
 - a. First Class Restaurant/Bar license
Mr. Arrison motioned to approve the application. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and all were in favor.
 - b. Outside Consumption Permit
Mr. Fuller motioned to approve the application. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and all were in favor.
2. Coco Mart, Inc./dba: Colonial Deli Mart
 - a. Second class License
Mr. Arrison motioned to approve the application. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and all were in favor.
 - b. Tobacco License
Mr. Fuller motioned to approve the application. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and all were in favor.
3. Circle K Vermont/dba: Circle K #7408
 - a. Second Class License
Mr. Arrison motioned to approve the application. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and all were in favor.
 - b. Tobacco License

Mr. Arrison motioned to approve the application. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Boyer closed the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners.

6. Future Agenda Items

No discussion of this item took place.

7. Executive Session: Conduct Annual Evaluation of Town Manager

Mr. Fuller motioned for the Board to go into executive session to conduct the annual evaluation of the Town Manager. Mr. Arrison seconded the motion and all were in favor.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Cole motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM. Mr. Arrison seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse