

Weathersfield Select Board  
Minutes  
January 20, 2014

Present: Norman John Arrison  
C. Peter Cole  
Dan Boyer  
Richard Clattenburg

Others Present: Jim Mullen, Town Manager  
Lisa Slade, Recording Secretary  
Chief Davies  
Lynn Esty  
Wes Hazeltine  
Edith Stillson  
deForest Bearse  
Jeff Slade  
George Lamb  
Alan Hudson  
Jeness Burns

1. Call to Order: Mr. Boyer called the Weathersfield Select Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Martin Memorial Hall.

2. Comments from Citizens and Select Board Members: Mr. Boyer thanked the highway department for their work on the roads during the bad weather. Mr. Boyer asked for an Executive Session for Personnel at the end of the meeting tonight.

Mr. Hazeltine said there have been negative comments about how West Weathersfield Fire Departments members have responded to calls in the past and he wanted to say he has been observing their response over the past couple of months and he believes this has improved - they are responding very cautiously.

3. Review Minutes from Previous Meetings: **Mr. Arrison made the motion to approve the minutes dated December 16, 2013, Mr. Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 - 0 with one abstention.**

**Mr. Arrison made the motion to approve the minutes dated January 6, 2014. Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion which passed without dissent.**

4. Regular Business

A. Public Hearing #1/Revised Land Use Chapter for Town Plan: Mr. Boyer opened the Public Hearing and read the Notice aloud. Mrs. Bearse said this has been looked at before so the Board is aware of the changes. She said the latest changes are in red. Mr. Boyer recessed the Hearing until the next Hearing on 2/3/14.

B. Amend Weathersfield Roadway and Bridge Standards (first reading): Mr. Mullen said this is to keep up with VTrans requirements, really nothing different than what we're already doing as we already follow their recommendations.

Mr. Arrison said he noticed they require training of six hours per year. Mr. Hazeltine said we do this.

**Mr. Cole made the motion to move the Amendments to the Town's Roadway and Bridge Standards to the Second Reading at the Select Board meeting of 2/3/14. Mr. Arrison seconded the motion which passed without dissent.**

C. Perkinsville School Reuse Project

a) Update on size and configuration of lot for 1879 school building: Mr. Mullen said he has talked to Gary Rapponitti and he will be in to do research when there is adverse weather, before the Town Meeting.

b) Award contract for installing permanent electrical service to 1879 school building: Mr. Boyer said two bids were received. **Mr. Arrison made the motion to hire Smith Electric for \$4,500 to provide 200 amp permanent electrical service to the 1879 Perkinsville School. Mr. Cole seconded the motion which passed without dissent.**

D. Review Draft Warning for 2014 Town Meeting: The Board reviewed the Draft Warning and some changes were made. The Budget Committee recommended inserting the word sell in parentheses after the word convey when asking if the voters authorized the Select Board to convey the 1879 Perkinsville School building. They also recommend adding an Article to appropriate \$5,000 to the Police Cruiser Reserve Fund. Mr. Mullen said the Budget Committee feels the amount for the Reappraisal should go from \$10,000 to \$5,000. After discussion it was decided to delete this Article in its entirety. There was discussion on the fifteen Articles that have to do with Social Services. Mr. Lamb feels they should be listed each year individually because the Town doesn't control these expenditures, they are not town services. After discussion the consensus of the Board was to delete the fifteen Articles, put them in the budget which is keeping with the current policy that is in place.

E. Review and Adopt FY2015 general fund, highway fund, and solid waste fund budgets: Mr. Boyer said he recommends adopting this at the next meeting so all Select Board members could be present.

The Board started the review with the police budget. Mr. Clattenburg said he was concerned with the increase over the past year, he said maybe we should have looked at the police coverage and gradually increased it instead of such a big increase in such a short time. Mr. Arrison said it is important to separate the need from money when we are discussing the police budget. Mr. Hudson said the Budget Committee looked at this and the majority of the increase is due to adding a Full Time Officer.

Chief Davies said with the increase in activity we need the resources to handle that. Mr. Boyer said we have to also take into consideration the increase in revenues. Mr. Arrison said the Board approved additional man hours however, the budget is concerning. Mr. Clattenburg said there is no way to know what level of service is needed, what level is enough.

Mrs. Slade questioned if it would help with the expense if there were less Officers covering the part time hours, keep the same number of hours with less Officers should save on expenses of training, equipment, uniforms etc. Chief Davies said it is difficult to find part time help that will work twenty - thirty hours a week since they have other jobs, they only want to work about ten hours.

Mr. Clattenburg asked Chief Davies if there was a cut of say \$20,000 what would he do. Chief Davies said he would probably decrease the patrol hours. He asked the

Board to keep in mind the budget in the past was unrealistic for our Town, he is trying to get the budget to a realistic number.

Mr. Arrison asked Mr. Mullen if the Ascutney Fire District should be paying for Administrative time now. Mr. Mullen said he thinks they could pay for some at this time, he will propose they pay \$3,000.

Mr. Arrison questioned if we need the Assistant Town Treasurer position. Ms. Burns said she thinks the Town Treasurer should be part of this conversation. Mr. Arrison said if the cut isn't made at this time the position(s) could be revisited during the year.

Mr. Clattenburg asked what the employees would receive as a raise as part of the proposed budget, Ms. Burns said thirteen cents per hour.

Mr. Mullen said there are not any changes in the highway fund other than the increase in wages. Mr. Clattenburg questioned the staffing level and asked how it has been working with the bad weather we have had. Mr. Hazeltine said it has been ok, they have kept up with the weather but are not able to get other things done around the shop. Mr. Mullen said there is money in the budget for contract work which should help with the back log.

Mr. Arrison noted there was \$10,000 in for paving which is really nothing but in his opinion it should be left in. Mr. Hazeltine said that would probably be used on Amsden School House Road.

Mrs. Slade asked if we could refinance the proposed new truck for four years instead of three years which would help with the amount paid out each year. Mr. Mullen said this wouldn't work because we buy a new truck every three years so we would end up with double payments.

Based on the tax increase with the proposed budget Mr. Mullen shared a list of possible budget savings with the Board. The Board reviewed the list and made cuts they deemed appropriate.

Back to the Social Services - Mr. Cole recommended cutting their requested amounts and only fund them 80% - other services in Town are having to be cut so we should cut these too.

Mr. Clattenburg asked how we came up with the amount to charge West Windsor and Reading for use of our Solid Waste Facility. Mr. Cole said it was based on population. Mr. Arrison said he feels we should be discussing curb side pick up - that is the next thing coming our way.

Reserve Fund - cut the money for the Reappraisal fund, leave others as proposed.

F. Contract Review/US Army Corps of Engineers Police Patrol, North Springfield Lake: Mr. Mullen said he feels we should go back to them and ask for \$40 per hour which is what our operating expense is. The Board was ok with this.

G. Approve purchase of two mobile data centers for police cruisers using grant funds: **Mr. Clattenburg made the motion to approve the purchase of the above technology items (discussed in a memo to the Board from Chief Davies and Officer Norton dated 1/14/14), with the full understanding that the fully executed grant will reimburse the Town of Weathersfield for the full agreed upon amount, Mr. Arrison seconded the motion.** Chief Davies said these are Panasonic tough books regulated through the VIBRS system. **Motion passed unanimously.**

H. Applications filed to allow emergency extraction of sand from Bow Sand Pit: Mr. Mullen said we have used 3000 yards to date so as soon as the permits are approved they will start hauling more sand from the Bow Pit to the Highway Garage.

I. Discuss whether to hold or reschedule the 02/17/14 Select Board meeting, currently posted for Presidents' Day, A Town Holiday: After discussion it was decided to meet on Wednesday 2/12/14 instead of on Monday the 17th.

5. Sign Treasurer's Warrant: **Mr. Arrison made the motion to approve the Treasurer Warrants as follows:**

<b>General fund payroll</b>	<b>\$ 17,667.18</b>
<b>General fund operating expense</b>	<b>\$166,356.93</b>
<b>Highway fund payroll</b>	<b>\$ 19,608.46</b>
<b>Highway fund operating expense</b>	<b>\$ 23,884.48</b>
<b>Solid Waste management fund payroll</b>	<b>\$ 1,498.51</b>
<b>Solid Waste management fund operating expense</b>	<b>\$ 3,111.37</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>\$ -872.31</b>
<b>General funds operating expense</b>	<b>\$ 52,000.00</b>

**Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion which passed without dissent.**

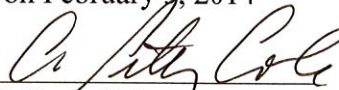
6. Future Meeting Agenda Items: next meeting will be a special meeting on Monday the 27th to finalize the budget.

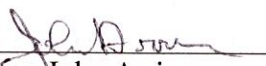
Executive Session: **Mr. Clattenburg made the motion to go into Executive Session for personnel with deForest Bearse. Mr. Arrison seconded the motion which passed without dissent.**

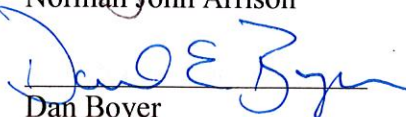
7. Adjourn: **Mr. Clattenburg made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Arrison seconded the motion which passed without dissent.** The Select Board meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Lisa Slade

Approved by the \Weathersfield Select Board on February 3, 2014

  
C. Peter Cole

  
Norman John Arrison

  
Dan Boyer

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Richard Clattenburg