

Weathersfield Select Board  
Minutes  
January 27, 2014

Present: Dan Boyer  
Norman John Arrison  
Dave Fuller  
Richard Clattenburg

Others Present: Jim Mullen, Town Manager  
Lisa Slade, Recording Secretary  
Charles Horton  
Wanda Gropler  
Bonnie D. DuPrey  
Ernest Shand  
Edith Stillson  
Lorraine (Cookie) Shand  
Laurie Cobb  
Chip Cobb  
Alan Hudson  
Wes Hazeltine  
John Esty  
Bette Jo Esty  
Jeness Burns  
Peter Korbet  
Brenda Richardson

1. Call to Order: Mr. Boyer called the Weathersfield Select Board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at Martin Memorial Hall.

2. Comments from Citizens and Select Board Members: Mr. Boyer said he would like an Executive Session at the end for the Town Managers evaluation.

Mrs. Esty thanked deForest Bearse for her years of service as Land Use Administrator and said she will be missed.

3. Review Minutes from Previous Meetings: None to review

4. Regular Business

A. Adopt FY2015 General Fund, Highway Fund, and Solid Waste Fund Budgets: Mr. Cobb said he understands the funds for the Veterans Memorial Committee Recording Secretary were cut from the budget at the last meeting and he is asking the Board to reconsider this. He said the Select Board created this Committee in 2004 and every year since the Select Board has appointed the Chair for the Committee. He said the Committee is still active and has a tight relationship with the Select Board and he wants this to continue. He reminded the Board that they approve the Warrants and he believes this cut sends the wrong signals to the Veterans.

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*Shirley Ann O'Leary*  
Town Clerk

Mr. Boyer apologized for his impression the cut has left. He said the Perkinsville Green looks nice, the Town should be proud of the Memorial but asked if it was necessary to pay a Recording Secretary now the Monument has been constructed. Mr. Cobb said we closed out the Grant money this year but there will continue to be care and maintenance of the Monument, Roll of Honor and the grounds around the Monument. He said this will be done through Agency Funds and money raised through fund raising activities.

Mr. Clattenburg asked Mr. Cobb if he felt that if the Recording Secretary position is not funded by the Select Board then the relationship between the Select Board and Committee would not continue to be strong. Mr. Cobb said he doesn't think the position should be cut, this is minimal money.

Mr. Arrison said we have a lot of Committees and they all keep minutes but not all the Recording Secretaries are paid positions. He said they are warned meetings and the minutes indicate who is present and what motions are made. Mr. Cobb said the Veterans Memorial Committee minutes have kept detailed information regarding several important steps through the process of constructing the Monument such as who owns the land the Monument is on. Mr. Korbet said he agrees with Mr. Cobb important notes have been kept but maybe the Committee no longer has to meet twelve times a year - perhaps the Board should reconsider the direction of the Veterans Memorial Committee.

Mr. Clattenburg asked if any Town money goes to the Committee other than the money for the Recording Secretary. Mr. Cobb said no. Mr. Boyer said he thinks the number of times the Committee meets is up to them. Mr. Arrison said this is funded through June already and we are not talking a lot of money.

At the end of the discussion the money for the Veterans Memorial Committee Recording Secretary was put back in the budget.

Mr. Mullen said at this time we are up about \$72 per \$200,000 home. He said last year it dropped about \$74 because we used reserve funds, this year we do not have any reserve funds to use. Mr. Arrison asked if this was assuming all Articles passed, Mr. Mullen said yes.

Mr. Clattenburg questioned what the taxes would be the following year since that is when all the payments hit for the Articles that are approved. There was discussion about using reserve funds in the past to help with the tax rate and since they are no longer available the tax rate is up. It was also noted that the voters need to know if they approve an Article this year they need to realize their taxes will increase next year to pay for that expense.

Mr. Korbet asked if the proposed new grader was on the long term debt schedule. Mr. Boyer said yes and if that passes the payment of \$32,000 would start in 2016.

Mr. Clattenburg said expenditures in the General Fund are up about \$106,000 and a little over one half of that is due to the police department. There was discussion that the revenue the department brings in helps offset some expenditures but not all. It was noted the Select Board already approved extra time for Officers so the current budget is already over.

Mr. Korbet said the taxpayers need to know with the department expanding other expenses will come along like cruisers and office space.

Mrs. Shand said the Chief should be at the Town Meeting to talk statistics. Mr. Arrison said arrests were virtually not existent before Chief Davies came on so there has been an increase in arrests but the State Police are not responding to calls as often because we are now paying for services through our Town's police department.

Mr. Fuller asked if the contract for the Army Corp worked out. Mr. Mullen said they are going to cut the hours but increase the per hour rate to \$40 so it is for the same amount of money. Mr. Fuller said he doesn't feel \$40 per hour is enough.

**Mr. Arrison made the motion to approve the General Fund not to exceed \$1,224,933 with \$872,142 raised through property taxation. Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Mr. Mullen said the difference in tonight's Highway Fund Budget is the increase in insurance rates for liability, auto and covered bridges. Mr. Arrison asked if this was a self insurance pool, Mr. Mullen said yes. Mr. Arrison asked if he was aware of any significant losses. Mr. Mullen said he is not sure on the reasoning.

**Mr. Arrison made the motion to approve the Highway Department budget not to exceed \$1,052,974 with \$755,704 being raised through property taxation. Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion which passed without dissent.**

**Mr. Arrison made the motion to approve expenditure in the amount of \$230,918 for the support and operation of the Solid Waste Facility, Mr. Fuller seconded the motion.** Mr. Korbet asked how this approved with previous years, Mr. Arrison said it was comparable. Mr. Fuller said zero sort is rapidly approaching. **Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Adopt FY2015 Reserve Fund Plan: **Mr. Arrison made the motion to adopt the FY2015 Reserve Fund Plan, the Capital Replacement Plan and the Long-Term Debt Schedule as presented dated 1/27/14. Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

C. Adopt FY2015 Capital Replacement Plan and Long-Term Debt Schedule: Included in above motion.

D. Adopt the Warning for the 2014 Town Meeting: **Mr. Arrison made the motion to adopt the Warning as modified, Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion.** Mr. Fuller said he doesn't support the Article to designate the Town as a Property Assessed Clean Energy District which will enable owners to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, the Town will become a collection agency. Mr. Fuller said we need to find out what this means for the Town if this Article passes.

Mr. Fuller said he doesn't support buying a new grader. He said he had a conversation with the CAT dealer and we can buy additional warranty and that is what we should do. He said our warranty goes until March 11, 2015, there are 6700 hours on our grader and they usually go 12,000 - 14,000 hours. He is waiting for a call back with the price to purchase the extra warranty.

Mr. Arrison asked Mr. Hazeltine to get the cost on the warranty that Mr. Fuller says can be purchased and also find out what will be covered on the warranty.

Mr. Fuller said he doesn't support cutting the payments to Social Services by 20%. Mr. Korbet asked if the policy in place allows the Select Board to cut, the Board did not know without looking at the policy. **Motion carried unanimously.**

E. Pass the Resolution on the Library Bond, schedule the 3/4/14 Library Bond Vote, and schedule the 3/3/14 Public Informational Hearing on the Bond Vote: **Mr. Arrison made the motion to pass the Resolution on the Library Bond, Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion.** Mr. Korbet asked how much this was for, Mr. Arrison said \$1,300,000.00. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Arrison made the motion to schedule the Library Bond Vote for 3/4/14. Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion which passed without dissent.**

**Mr. Arrison made the motion to schedule the Public Informational Hearing on the Bond Vote for 3/3/14. Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion which passed without dissent.**

Mr. Shand invited the Board (and the public) to an open house on Monday 2/3/14 at 6:30 p.m. at Weathersfield Proctor Library to view the plans of the new library and to seek additional information.

F. Land Use Administrator Vacancy

a. Approve Job Description for Land Use Administrator and authorize posting/advertising of the position: Mr. Arrison said this doesn't mention what computer skills are needed. Mr. Mullen said they are just basic computer skills. Mr. Fuller asked if we had one now. Mr. Mullen said we do but it is awful so he used it to come up with this new one.

Mr. Fuller asked if the Planning Commission looked at the job description. Mr. Mullen said he emailed the Chair of both the Planning Commission and Zoning but did not hear back from either of them.

**Mr. Arrison made the motion to approve the job description and post the position. Mr. Clattenburg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

b. Approve Membership and Purpose of Land Use Administrator Candidate Review Committee: After discussion it was decided the Planning Commission should review the Candidates (pursuant to 24 VSA 4448) and make a recommendation to the Select Board.

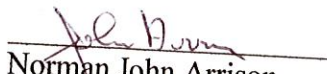
5. Future Meeting Agenda Items:


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

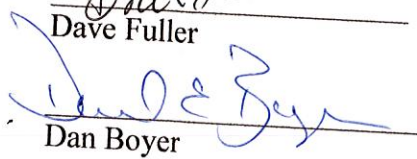
6. Adjourn: **Mr. Clattenburg made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Arrison seconded the motion which passed without dissent.** The Select Board meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Lisa Slade

Approved by the Weathersfield Select Board on April 21, 2014

  
Norman John Arrison

  
Dave Fuller

  
Dan Boyer

