

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5
7:00 PM, JANUARY 5, 2015
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES
APPROVED 1/19/2015

Present: N. John Arrison
David Fuller (arrived at 7:15 PM)
Daniel Boyer
Richard Clattenburg
C. Peter Cole

Bette Jo Esty
Wanda Gropler
Charles Horton
Bonnie DuPrey
John Hummel
Michael Todd
Jeness Burns
Lynn Esty
Alex (?)

Edith Stillson
Ryan Pelletier
Wes Hazeltine
John Esty
Jamie Beattie
Darrin Spaulding
William Daniels
Ray Moore
Nicole Cormier

Mychael Spaulding
George Lamb

1. Call to Order

Chairman Arrison called the meeting order at 7:02 PM.

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

Select Board: Chairman Arrison reminded all who wish to run for elected positions in 2015 to get petitions from the Town Clerk. Petitions are due January 27th.

Citizens: Lynn Esty handed in tax forms from both fire departments as requested by the Select Board. Ms. Esty said questions from the Board should be directed to each department.

John Hummel said he has purchased 206 Jason Smith Road and asked the Board for clarification on the status of the property. Mr. Hummel was referred to the police chief for additional information.

Charles Horton asked why the bids for mold/asbestos remediation at the 1879 schoolhouse were only solicited from a list of contractors provided by Claypoint. The Town Manager explained that the bid request is for a specialized service and that it is acceptable to solicit bids solely from a list of pre-qualified contractors.

Wanda Gropler asked if the Town Manager had spoken to the contractor "from Chester". Mr. Mullen replied that he had researched the company (Ethan Allen Associates) and determined that it would not be able to provide the type of remediation that Todd Hobson recommended.

3. Review Minutes from previous meeting(s)

Motion: To accept the minutes of December 10, 2014 as presented.

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

Motion: To accept the minutes of December 15, 2014 as presented.

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

4. FY 16 Budget preparation

a. Tax Rate Projection

Mr. Mullen said that there will be an increase of 6.7% on the municipal tax rate with the budgets as they currently stand, assuming all special articles pass, no increase in the grand list, and applying fund balances to reduce the rate. He said the budgets will have to be decreased by \$86,112 to reach the goal of a 1.7% increase. He said the large increase is due primarily to the special articles (the highway budget is actually down by 0.5% and the municipal budget is only up by 1% without the articles). Mr. Cole pointed out that the tax rate has averaged an increase of 1.57% per year since 2009. Points considered were ways to reduce the increase, the value of the grand list, and possible affects of state budget shortfalls.

b. General Fund Budget

The board reviewed the general fund budgets and the special articles. Mr. Mullen said \$30,000 of the fund balance is being used in the budget to reduce the tax rate; the remaining \$50,000 represents the 5% recommended cushion.

The budget as presented includes a \$15 contribution from each employee currently enrolled in the health insurance program. Various other contribution options were discussed. The consensus was to keep the \$15 per week contribution option, but it was acknowledged that this may have to be revisited.

Funding for the town manager search was cut from \$7000 to \$3500. It was agreed that this may have to be restored to the \$6000 that is recommended by VLCT. Chairman Arrison asked that this be discussed at the next meeting.

The police department budget reflects a 10-hour decrease in part time staff hours. Chief Daniels agreed to the cut because the department has been unable to fill the full 40 part time hours. The Chief emphasized the need to replace the Impala. Article 15 on the warrant is worded to allow purchase of the new cruiser immediately following Town Meeting. However delivery will still take 3 months. Mr. Fuller asked if that process could be sped up. Chief Daniels said he would look into it.

Chairman Arrison asked the board to take up item #6 on the agenda to accommodate the Chief.

6. Authorize Filling of Full-Time Police Officer Vacancy

Motion: To authorize the Town Manager to fill the full-time police officer vacancy

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

c. Highway Fund Budget

The board reviewed the highway budget. Discussion centered on funding for the 8th crewmember. Mr. Hazeltine said he was comfortable with the budget. No changes were made.

d. Capital Replacement Plan and Long Term Debt Schedule

Discussion centered on purchase of the fire truck for West Weathersfield. Based on a recommendation from the budget committee, the truck will be purchased on a bond with a ten-year payback instead of a 5-

year loan as was originally proposed. The truck will be owned by the Town. The old truck is owned by WWVFD and will be sold by the department. Funds from the sale will go into additional features on the new truck.

Mr. Mullen obtained an estimate of \$10,000 from HB Plumbing to replace the heating system at the highway garage and \$5,000 for a heat pump for the highway garage office. After discussion, it was decided to move forward with the project this year and take the cost out of next year's budget.

e. Reserve Funds (including funding for grant-funded highway projects)

After reviewing the Reserve Funds, the following changes were agreed to:

- Highway maintenance: put \$15,000 as a line item in the budget instead of one cent on the tax rate as a separate article.
- Highway equipment: currently in as one penny – cut to half-cent and leave as a separate article.
- Library: lower from two cents to one cent (to be discussed with trustees at later meeting)
- Aid to Residents in Need and Fire Equipment – place as line items in the budget instead of as separate articles

f. Solid Waste Budget

Mr. Mullen said Tom Kennedy would meet with the board to discuss upcoming statewide changes in waste management that will have an effect on the budget.

g. 1879 Perkinsville Schoolhouse Renovation and Annual Maintenance Budgets

Mr. Mullen said a budget of \$80,000 was presented at Town Meeting last year. Some of the work has been done since then. He said the budget is now \$70,000, a budget that assumes volunteer labor and contract expenses at cost. Todd Hobson has agreed to hold the price of the remediation until April 30th (\$24,800). This is on the warning as a separate article to authorize the board to borrow the money. No discussion and no changes were made.

5. Preparation for Town Meeting 2015

a. Review draft Warning for 2015 Town Meeting

The board reviewed the articles on the warning. No changes were made.

The board discussed the request for an article for creation of an energy-efficiency reserve fund and a second article to fund it with one cent on the tax rate. No decision was made.

b. Review draft Warning for Special Bond Meeting for fire truck purchase

c. Review time line leading up to 2015 Town Meeting and Special Bond Meeting

The board discussed the late start time of the town meeting last year and how to prevent that this year, e.g. earlier start time, swapping the order of meetings (town first, school second), having the informational meeting on the bond votes on a separate day, moving the (informational) meeting to a Saturday.

6. Authorized Filling of Full-Time Police Officer Vacancy

(Discussed earlier in the meeting.)

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7. Project Updates

- A. Bids due 1/14/15 for 0.85 Mile Baltimore Road Culvert Project
- B. Maple Street Reconstruction Project
- C. Project for trail access to Town Forest
- D. Correspondence regarding appearance of cell tower in Ascutney
- E. Well at Highway Garage

8. Appointments:

Southern Windsor/Windham County Solid Waste Management District – Town Manager Jim Mullen

Motion: To appoint Jim Mullen as the town’s representative on the Southern Windsor/Windham County Solid Waste Management District

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

9. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for January 5, 2015 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$39,141.07
	Payroll	\$27,848.81

Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$63,131.69
	Payroll	\$22,635.95

Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$3,509.75
	Payroll	\$2,506.21

Library	Operating Expenses	\$159.32
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Grants		\$0.00
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Agency Monies		\$48.82
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Reserves		\$250.00
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Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Boyer **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

10.Future Meeting Agenda Items

11.Executive Session

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

The board came out of executive session at 9:36 PM. No action was taken.

12.Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT
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Respectfully submitted,
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WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

N. John Arrison, Chairperson

Daniel E. Boyer, Vice-Chairperson

David T. Fuller, Selector

C. Peter Cole, Selector

Richard N. Clattenburg, Selector