

SELECT BOARD

Select Board  
Meeting  
Martin Memorial Hall  
5259 Route 5, Ascutney, Vermont  
Monday, November 2, 2015  
7:00 PM  
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES  
APPROVED 11/16/2015

Select Board Members Present: N. John Arrison  
Daniel Boyer  
Lynn Esty  
David Fuller

Jim Mullen, Town Manager

Others Present:

Wanda Gropler	Edith Stillson	George Lamb	Darrin Spaulding
Bonnie DuPrey	Westley Hazeltine	Amy Beth Main	Josh Dauphin
Charles Horton	Colin Butler	Brenda Richardson	Mychael Spaulding
John Cassidy	Tracey Dauphin	Toshya Spaulding	Eric Berquist

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Arrison called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

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

Select Board

There were no comments from Select Board members.

Citizens

There were no comments from citizens.

3. **Review minutes from previous meetings –**

**Additions/corrections/deletions:**

a. Mr. Mullen asked to change Colin Butler to Mr. Mullen in item 5.

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of October 19.

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mr. Fuller

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

4. **Set FY2017 budget goals (with Budget Committee**

The discussion was opened with the acknowledgement that this will be a challenging year – the grand list has not increased and there are no longer any budget surpluses to draw

on. Mr. Arrison polled the Board for opinions and thoughts. Mrs. Esty asked that things remain the same as much as possible; Mr. Fuller asked everyone to think creatively (think surepac vs gravel); Mr. Boyer expressed concern for residents living on fixed incomes.

**5. Review Draft FY17 Highway Budget (with Budget Committee)**

According to the Town Manager's report, the current highway budget used the entire \$132,601 Fund Balance as of June 30, 2014 to reduce taxes, replace the Beliveau well, and replace the heating system at the highway garage. The FY15 tax year ended with \$42,645 less than anticipated. The net effect of these factors will require \$174,000 in additional taxes to support a level-funded highway budget with seven employees.

Mr. Mullen said that he, the Highway Superintendent and the budget committee had met that morning to discuss the highway budget. Because this is a challenging budget, Mr. Hazeltine has withdrawn his request for an eighth employee and made additional cuts to the equipment rental, contract work, Class 3 Paving, culverts, and roads signs lines. This brings the tax levy down to \$119,213.

There are no capital purchases planned for FY17. Mr. Mullen will look into the possibility of using reserve funds to help pay for the highway garage heating system.

**6. Fire Commission Monthly Report – Lynn Esty**

Mrs. Esty gave the monthly Fire Commission report. The Commission again asked to have the Gulf Road dry hydrant repaired and questioned the coding of repairs of the AVFD fire truck to the AVFD repair line. The damages were sustained while repairing the Cowdrey Road dry hydrant and the Commissioners thought that perhaps this expense could be charged to the dry hydrant repair budget instead. There was no discussion on these issues and no action was taken by the Board..

**7. Weathersfield Fire Services Evaluation: Discuss Goals and Objectives**

Mrs. Esty said that the Fire Commission had reviewed and discussed the draft list of Goals and Objectives for the fire services evaluation. The Commission questioned the manner in which John Wood had been selected for interview and whether the Select Board would heed the consultant's recommendations. There was much discussion and airing of frustrations - the Fire Departments with the manner in which the consultant had been chosen, the Board with the length of time it's taking to get this project off the ground. The Board chose to move forward with the evaluation and to give Mr. Wood the draft list of goals and objectives.

**Motion:** To hire John Wood at \$50 per hour for a total not to exceed \$2500 (for fire services evaluation).

**Made by:** Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Boyer

**Vote:** Boyer, Fuller and Arrison – aye; Esty – nay. Motion carries.

**8. Project Update: 1879 Perkinsville School House Renovation Project**

Mr. Mullen presented a report on the work done to date at the 1879 schoolhouse. The major components of the project are done. \$47,836 has been spent or is owed, leaving \$22,164 left for completion. Volunteers have given 259 hours to the project thus far. There is an additional \$4,832 raised by volunteers in an agency fund. The Town Manager will work with Matt Keniston to facilitate completion of the remaining tasks necessary to pass inspection using the remaining funds so the Food Shelf can move into the south classroom as soon as possible. The Board directed Mr. Mullen to make the necessary arrangements.

**#13 Approve partial payment of 1879 Perkinsville School House Loan using proceeds from sale of Tenney Hill Road property (taken out of order)**

**Motion:** To authorize the Town Treasurer to pay down \$61,182 on the \$70,000 loan from People's United Bank for improvements to the 1879 Perkinsville Schoolhouse using the net proceeds from the sale of the Tenney Hill Road property.

**Made by:** Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Boyer

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**9. Award funds from Transfer Station Bottle/Can Redemption Program – Round 3**

**Motion:** To award \$200 from the 5 Cent Returnable Cans & Bottles Donations Fund to the Ascutney Union Church Food Pantry and \$350 to the West Weathersfield Volunteer Fire Department and to set January 4, 2016 as the next date to award grants.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty **Second:** Mr. Boyer

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**10. Discontinue Transfer Station Electronic Waste Collection?**

Mr. Mullen said that our electronic waste is no longer being collected. Since we collect about 3 tons a month, Mr. Mullen recommended that we stop collecting the waste until a solution is found. Mr. Fuller suggested charging for accepting the waste as an alternative. It was agreed that residents will be given a choice of paying for immediate disposal of their electronic waste or waiting until an alternative is available. In the meantime, Mr. Mullen will pursue solutions with the State.

**11. Rewrite of Large Gathering Permit Ordinance (First Reading)**

**Motion:** To move the ordinance to the second reading (no changes).

**Made by:** Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Boyer

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

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**12. Begin Planning for Saturday Town Meeting, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Mrs. Esty volunteered to start planning for the Saturday Town Meeting in February. She will talk to other towns that have such meetings and look into possible day care and meals provisions.

**13. Approve partial payment of 1879 Perkinsville School House Loan using proceeds from sale of Tenney Hill Road property**

This item was taken up earlier in the meeting.

**14. Appointments**

Mrs. Esty asked to have the vacancy on the Fire Commission added to the list of vacant seats.

**15. Approve Warrants**

**Motion:** To approve the warrants for November 2, 2015 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$36,573.36
	Payroll	\$12,453.32
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$56,349.71
	Payroll	\$9,904.28
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$6,654.37
	Payroll	\$1,148.66
Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$5,330.56
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Reserves		\$736.50

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

**16. Future Meeting Agenda Items**

**17. Executive Session: Personnel**

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

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer      **Second:** Mr. Fuller

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

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No action was taken when the Board came out of executive session.

**18. Adjourn**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting

**Made by:** Mr. Fuller      **Second:** Mr. Boyer

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*deForest Bearse*

**WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD**

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N. John Arrison, Chairperson

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Daniel E. Boyer, Vice-Chairperson

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David T. Fuller, Selector

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C. Peter Cole, Selector

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Lynn Esty, Selector