

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Meeting
Weathersfield Center Meeting House
Weathersfield Center Road
7:00 PM, JULY 20, 2015

MINUTES
APPROVED 8/3/2015

Select Board Members Present: N. John Arrison
Daniel Boyer
Lynn Esty
David Fuller (joined the meeting at 7:33 PM)

Jim Mullen, Town Manager

Others Present:

Edith Stillson	Julia Lloyd Wright	Westley Hazeltine
Wanda Gropler	Charles Horton	
Amy Beth Main	Kelly Murphy	

1. Call to Order

Mr. Arrison called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

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

There were no comments from Select Board members.

Ms. Gropler asked questions about zoning enforcement. Mr. Arrison said he would pass them on to the zoning administrator.

Mrs. Murphy announced that there would be public meetings to take input on Act 46, the legislation requiring consolidation of school districts, on July 22nd and August 10th at 6:30 PM at the Weathersfield School. Mr. Arrison urged everyone to pay close attention to this matter.

3. Review minutes from previous meetings – July 7, 2015

Additions/corrections/deletions: None.

Motion: To accept the minutes as written.

Made by: Mr. Boyer Second: Mrs. Esty Vote: Unanimous in favor

Mrs. Esty noted for the record that the minutes of the June 15th meeting gave the wrong location – the meeting was held at the Ascutney Volunteer Fire Association stationhouse - not at Martin Hall.

4. Town Manager Search

a. Approve:

i. job description

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Motion: To approve the job description dated "Proposed 5/13/15 draft changes".

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

ii. **hiring range**

Motion: To set the pay range at \$65,000 to \$75,000 per year.

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

iii. **employment ad**

iv. **advertising preferences**

Motion: To approve the \$1659 VLCT proposal with an increase in the Valley News advertising line to \$398.80.

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

v. **timeline**

The consensus of the board was to change the deadline for applications to September 24th. The timeline will be sent back to VLCT for adjustment.

vi. **town point of contact**

The consensus of the board was to appoint Shirley Cole as point of contact.

b. **Discuss**

i. **possible directions to Screening Committee regarding interviews and number of candidates Committee will recommend to the Select Board for consideration**

It was the consensus of the board to allow the committee to decide the number of candidates it will forward to the select board.

ii. **number of days before 2/28/16 current and new Manager will overlap**

Mr. Mullen asked that there be a minimum of two weeks' overlap time. More may be needed if the new manager is unfamiliar with Vermont laws.

Mrs. Murphy asked for clarification from the board on a number of issues pertaining to the search committee. The committee will probably get started at the end of September.

5. **Establish Weathersfield Energy Committee**

The board started to discuss bylaws for the committee and then decided to let the committee develop their bylaws themselves.

Motion: To establish a five-member Weathersfield Energy Committee pursuant to 24 VSA 4433, and to post notice asking residents to serve on the Committee, with the Select Board to make the initial appointments to the Committee on September 8, 2015.

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

6. Perform pavement management study to develop 5-year capital paving plan?

Mr. Mullen proposed hiring an engineer to develop a 5-year capital paving plan at a cost of \$3,000. The plan would include:

- (1) Condition of each section of the three roads (Amsden School, Reservoir, and Weathersfield Center)
- (2) Work needed on each section
- (3) Budgets
- (4) Priority for work
- (5) Strategy for funding/borrowing

After discussion, it was the consensus of the board that much of the work could be done by Mr. Hazeltine. Mr. Hazeltine agreed that he could do it.

Motion: To authorize Mr. Hazeltine to compile information on the condition of all paved roads; work needed on each section; and priority for work and to be ready for budget discussions in the fall.

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

7. Need for generator for emergency communications at Martin Memorial Hall?

Mr. Mullen stated that when the power goes out in Ascutney, the Town Office is completely shut down. There is no way to receive or transmit communications from/to the public. He suggested developing a budget estimate for a generator for inclusion in the FY17 budget. The board agreed and directed him to move forward with the idea.

8. Crown Point Road – next steps?

Mr. Arrison stated that as of this month, any ancient roads that are not on the Town's highway map are now discontinued. He pointed out that the issues on the Crown Point Road have still not been resolved. There appears to be a discrepancy between the surveyed path and the traditional path across Moore's land. Mr. Mullen suggested that the select board designate one or two of its members to meet with the affected landowners to negotiate an agreement. All were in agreement that the Town wants to retain the Crown Point Road as an historic resource and to allow people to hike it.

Mr. Mark would like the Town to have an easement to direct hikers around his orchard rather than through it.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Arrison and Mrs. Esty would meet with Mr. Mark and Mr. Moore to discuss the continued use of the Crown Point Road.

Motion: To authorize Mr. Arrison and Mrs. Esty to meet with Mr. Mark and Mr. Moore to discuss the continued use of the Crown Point Road.

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

9. VELCO Connecticut River Valley Project – discuss whether Board has any concerns

The Board received VELCO's 45-day notice of filing. The consensus of the board was that they had no concerns regarding the project.

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10. Cell tower in Ascutney – approve joining the Planning Commission in a letter to PSB and the Governor regarding permit violation?

Mr. Mullen said that the Town has not received any response to any of its letters regarding the appearance of the cell tower in Ascutney.

Motion: To join the Planning Commission in sending a strongly worded letter (to include photographs from the application and the tower as it appears now) to the Public Service Board and the Governor regarding the discrepancy between the appearance of the cell tower in Ascutney as permitted by the Public Service Board and what was actually built by New Cingular Wireless/SBA Towers.

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

11. Review FY15 year-end (to date) budget reports

Mr. Mullen distributed copies of the Government-Wide statement of Net Position (June 30, 2014) and FY15 Year End Budget Projections for the General Fund, the Highway Fund, and the Solid Waste Fund. He reminded the Board that year-end expenses and revenues won't be finalized until the end of August.

Mr. Mullen said that due to an error in the grand list, the Town will receive approximately \$30,000 less in tax revenue from VELCO. The short fall could be resolved in a variety of ways.

The projections for the General Fund show a surplus of \$28,564 to \$57,570 and \$37,044 for the highway fund. The solid waste fund will be under by \$6,895.

The Board also reviewed and discussed the period 12 budget status report. No action was needed or taken.

12. Authorize purchase of plow for 2016 pickup

Motion: To purchase a snowplow from Snowplow Sales of Gilsum, NH for \$5,700 as described in Snowplow Sales' 7/13/15 proposal.

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

13. Authorize local purchase of 1,200 yards crushed gravel at \$10/yard

The Board discussed the proposal with Mr. Hazeltine who was in favor of the purchase.

Motion: To purchase 1,200+/- yards of crushed gravel from Ron Brown for \$10/yard, with the gravel loaded into Town trucks at the pit on Drumlin Road by Ron Brown.

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

14. Authorize sale or trade of surplus equipment

a. Transfer Station baler

b. Highway Department Tractor

This item was postponed to the next meeting. Mr. Hazeltine was asked to provide an estimate of the value of the equipment.

15. Weathersfield Transfer Station Facility

a. Notice of Alleged Violation – follow-up

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The Town received acknowledgement of the response to the NOAV, but was asked to supply recycling data reports. Mr. Hazeltine said he is working on it.

b. Award funds from Transfer Station Bottle/Can Redemption Program (Round 1) – Reading/West Windsor Food Shelf (overlooked at 7/7/15 meeting)

Motion: To award \$200 from the 5 cent returnable cans & bottles donations fund to the Reading/West Windsor Food Shelf.

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

16. Project Updates:

Due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Mullen only reported on the Maple Street Reconstruction Project (the engineer is revising the plans to incorporate comments from VTrans) and the Dry Hydrant Grant Application (the application will be submitted on August 1st).

17. Appointments

None.

18. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for July 7, 2015 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$24,952.94
	Payroll	\$11,890.80
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$9,275.61
	Payroll	\$8,477.95
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$5,494.25
	Payroll	\$1,037.22
Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$58,953.55
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$900.00
Reserves		\$0.00

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

19. Future Meeting Agenda Items

20. Executive Session:

a. Proposed contract (replacement well on Town Highway Garage land)

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss a proposed contract.

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

The Board came out of executive session at 9:10 PM.

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Motion: (1) To approve the 7/1/15 proposal by Valley Artesian Well & Pump Co. for water well related services at the Town Highway Garage land; (2) to authorize Town Manager Jim Mullen and Select Board Member David Fuller to develop the legal documents necessary for the home of Wayne Beliveau and Diane Rejniak at 571 Stoughton Pond Road in Perkinsville to utilize the new well on the Town Highway Garage land; and (3) to authorize Town Manager Jim Mullen to sign these legal documents on behalf of the Town.”
Made by: Mr. Arrison Second: Mr. Fuller Vote: Unanimous in favor
4-0; motion carried.

21. **Adjourn**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

N. John Arrison, Chairperson

Daniel E. Boyer, Vice-Chairperson

David T. Fuller, Selector

C. Peter Cole, Selector

Lynn Esty, Selector