

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Meeting
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5
7:00 PM, AUGUST 3, 2015

MINUTES
APPROVED 8/17/2013

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

Jim Mullen, Town Manager

Others Present:

Edith Stillson	Norma Smead	Greg Smist
Elwin Smead, Jr.	Maureen Bogosian	
Bob Stevens	Bob Holtorf	

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

There were no comments from Select Board members or from citizens.

3. Review minutes from previous meetings – July 20, 2015

Additions/corrections/deletions: Under item #6 (1): change to read all Town paved roads, not just the three listed

Motion: To accept the minutes as amended.

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

4. Letter received from neighbors regarding Reitzas property, 1254 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow

Neighbors of the Reitzas property have written a letter to the Select Board regarding the deteriorating condition of the Reitzas house. The Town Manager/Health Officer has inspected the property and observed that the roof had been recently damaged by a large tree limb falling on it. He found the doors and windows were secure and the lawn had been mowed. In his opinion, Section 7.18 of the Zoning Bylaws did not apply because the damaged roof did not pose a threat to the “safety and welfare of the public”. He further stated that there are no Health Officer issues as the public health is not affected by the condition of the property and this is not a rental property.

The neighbors disagreed with Mr. Mullen’s conclusions, stating that the property was uninhabitable and constituted a fire hazard. They felt that all of their properties were at risk if

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the Reitzas property caught fire because the hydrant in the Bow does not work and therefore there would be insufficient water to put out such a fire. Mr. Smead asserted that the barn was in worse condition than the house and posed a safety hazard due to the condition of the floor. They urged the Board to put more pressure on Bank of America to resolve the situation quickly.

Motion: To authorize the Town Manager to draft a letter to Bank of America and the current owner of the Reitzas property to secure the property. The Select Board Chair is authorized to sign the letter.

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

Fire Chief Darrin Spaulding will be asked to write a letter as well.

Mr. Stevens asked that the Town take action to get water for fire suppression in the Bow.

5. Approve reversion to former job description for Town Accountant and authorize re-advertising of position

Mr. Mullen said that the newly authorized combined Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk/Accountant position was too much work for one person and asked the Board to reapprove the job description for the Town Accountant's position and to authorize the Town Manager to re-advertise the position.

Motion: To re-approve the Job Description for Town Accountant as last amended by the Select Board on 3/30/15 and to authorize the Town Manager to post the position as described in the 3/30/15 poster.

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

6. Vermont Transo appraisal reduction

The reduction in the Transo appraisal will cause a shortfall in the General Fund of approximately \$4000 and \$3000 in the Highway Fund. Mr. Mullen recommended taking no action at this time as FY15 year-end fund balances might resolve the shortfalls.

7. Authorize sale or trade of surplus equipment

a. Transfer Station baler

Motion: To authorize the Town Manager to list the baler at the Transfer Station for sale in a trade publication for "\$5000 or best offer".

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

b. Highway Department Tractor

Motion: To authorize the Mr. Mullen and Mr. Hazeltine to put the tractor out to bid and sell it.

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

c. 2009 Chevy Impala Police Cruiser

Motion: To authorize the Town Manager to list the 2009 Chevy Impala Police cruiser for sale for "\$1500 or best offer".

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

8. Weathersfield Hazardous Materials Response Ordinance: Third Reading: Amend Ordinance

Mrs. Esty stated that the Fire Commission had voted at their last meeting to accept the wording (as shown in the June 8, 2015 memo from the Town Manager).

Motion: To accept the new Weathersfield Hazardous Materials Response Ordinance as amended.

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

Mr. Fuller expressed concern about how the hazmat money is being spent by the fire departments and stated that passage of this ordinance will do nothing to address that concern.

Vote: Mrs. Esty, Mr. Arrison, and Mr. Boyer vote aye; Mr. Fuller votes nay. Motion carries.

9. Town Manager Search Process: Salary range for future Town Manager?

The proposed salary range of \$65,000 - \$75,000 as decided at the July 20th meeting was revisited. After discussion, it was agreed to leave it at this range,

10. Review progress in achieving Select Board Goals for 2015-2016

The consensus of the Board was that good progress is being made toward achievement of the goals.

11. Fire Commission monthly report – Lynn Esty

Mrs. Esty reported on upcoming fund-raising activities for both fire departments. She stated that complaints were voiced about the length of time it takes to get dry hydrants repaired. There are three hydrants that need long-arm dredging. This year's dry hydrant grant has been approved but will not be available until the funds from last year's grant have been spent (for long-arm dredging). The Gulf Road hydrant needs repairs. The Bow hydrant is inoperative in part because someone has dismantled the dam and there is no water in the pond.

Mr. Mullen said the Gulf Road hydrant will be repaired when the pond is dredged.

Mrs. Esty also noted that West Weathersfield upgraded their hydraulic cutters and purchased an ARGO amphibious vehicle and an enclosed trailer. She said questions were raised about insurance and training. West Weathersfield is also requesting \$4000 from the reserve fund for turn-out gear. Lastly, she said there are concerns about inconsistencies in town maintenance of the fire trucks and there was a request to dissolve the Fire Commission.

Mr. Arrison questioned the department's purchasing priorities. He asked if West Weathersfield has a five-year plan - if they do not, why not and if they do, where the amphibious vehicle fit into it. Mr. Fuller asked that the discussion be delayed until the fire departments could be present. It was agreed that the departments would be invited to the August 17th meeting.

12. Weathersfield Transfer Station Facility –

a. Notice of Alleged Violation – follow-up

Mr. Mullen said that all of the alleged violations have been resolved. The three barrels of unknown liquid were tested and confirmed to be used motor oil. Clean Harbors took away

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the three barrels and all the rest of the used motor oil at the station (450 gallons total). The state has been notified.

13. Project Updates

a. Sale of town-owned parcel on Tenney Hill Road

The property has sold at the full asking price of \$69,900. The Town received \$62,910 (10% of the sale price went to the real estate agents). Mr. Hier will be consulted on how to pay off the \$70,000 loan.

b. Perkinsville Schoolhouse

The exterior drainage system is under construction, but it is successfully directing water away from the building. The plumbing work and the new heating system have been out to bid. Bids are due before the next meeting. Volunteers are needed to help on August 15th for a work day.

c. Maple Street Reconstruction Project

VTrans has sent a draft RFP for the resident engineer who will supervise the construction.

d. 0.85 Mile Baltimore Road Culvert Project

The culvert is being backhoed and water is going through it. Mr. Mullen has put out a request for bids for guardrails for there and on Reservoir Road.

e. Wetland Application for Access to Town Forest

Mr. Mullen has received a new set of questions. Our consultant will address them.

f. Thrasher Road Culvert #4 Replacement Project

We have received a grant for culvert #4. Mr. Mullen is considering working with the landowners on the east side of the road at the bottom of the hill to create an overflow ditch instead of replacing the remaining two culverts. An engineer will have to be consulted.

There is a driveway and utility pole in the way. Culvert #4 has to be completed by October 15th.

14. Appointments

15. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for August 3, 2015 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$40,774.92
	Payroll	\$11,823.36
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$4,105.15
	Payroll	\$8,907.68
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$9,973.61
	Payroll	\$1,236.72

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Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$38,687.63
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$416.97
Reserves		\$0.00

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

Motion: To approve the warrant for 8/3/2015 for \$6990 from the General Fund to pay the realtors fee for the sale of the Tenney Hill property.

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

16. Future Meeting Agenda Items

Appointments to the Energy Committee should be added to the next meeting agenda.

17. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM..

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