

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board

Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney, VT
Monday, December 19, 2016
7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

APPROVED 1/5/2017

Select Board Members Present: Daniel Boyer
C. Peter Cole
Lynn Esty
Amy Beth Main
Kelly Murphy

Select Board Members Absent:

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Nancy Heatley
Colin Butler

1. Call to Order

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

2. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager

Mrs. Esty announced that the 1879 Schoolhouse committee is raffling three items (a painting, a stenciled tray, and a quilt) to contribute to the schoolhouse restoration project funds. Tickets and information are available from committee members or by calling BJ Esty.

3. Comments from Citizens on topics not on the agenda

There were no citizen comments.

4. Review minutes from previous meetings – 12/05/2016

Additions/corrections/deletions:

- a. Correct the spelling of John Arrison's name on page 3.
- b. Correct the spelling of the word “bazaar” on page 12.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the 12/5/2016 meeting as corrected.

Made by: Mrs. Esty **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

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5. Fireworks Policy/Third Reading (Continued from 12/05/2016)

The Select Board briefly reviewed the third iteration of the policy. No further changes were made.

Motion: To table final adoption of the policy until after the Town Attorney has reviewed it.

Made by: Mrs. Esty **Second:** Ms. Main

Vote: Unanimous in favor

6. Approve moving scheduled Select Board meeting from 01/02/2017 to 01/03/2017

Motion: To reschedule the next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting from January 2nd, 2017 to Thursday, January 5th, 2017.

Made by: Ms. Murphy **Second:** Mr. Cole

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The School Board will be invited to attend this meeting.

7. Approve RFP for Auditing Services

Motion: To accept the auditor RFP as written.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

8. Budget Review

The Board continued their review of the budget.

Highway Department

Mrs. Esty asked if it would be cheaper to contract out for services to Ascutney Church, the library, etc. Mr. Morris said he and Westley are looking into it. On the whole, it is cheaper to have the highway department perform these tasks than it is to hire them out.

The 11% increase in the "Regular Wages" (line 64) is due to moving Tyler into the department. His expenses will be pro-rated between the highway and solid waste departments.

Contract work (line 87) was reduced to \$5000 because Westley said he won't have time to get to the ditch work during this fiscal year.

Summer mowing (line 89) has been increased to \$10,000 because this is a much more realistic amount based on input from this year's contractor.

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Paving repairs (line 126) has been reduced to \$1000 because it has been under budget for the last two years. This line pays for "pothole repairs". The \$48,519 in FY17 will be charged to the reserve account.

Solid Waste

The predicted cost savings from the proposed zero-sort system are not shown on the FY18 budget as it is hoped that the new system will be in pace within this fiscal year.

There was much discussion over line 13, Solid Waste Tokens. Ms. Murphy asked why this line is so consistently over budgeted and why it isn't more in line with the actual revenues. Mr. Butler said it is complicated as there are a number of unpredictable factors involved. If this number is reduced, then the expenses will have to be reduced by an equal amount. The best places to reduce expenses are to close the Swap Shop and to get a more accurate handle on the C & D waste stream. The consensus in the end was to leave line 13 alone.

It was agreed that perhaps the agreements with West Windsor and Reading should be revisited.

Library

No substantial changes are proposed.

General Fund

The Town Accountant pay will remain as hourly wages, not salary. The annual pay has been changed to \$55,000 with approximately \$3,000 added for overtime.

The police cruiser reserve contribution was removed from this budget for consistency as no other reserves are contained in this budget.

There was much discussion about the 6% across the board increase in pay for all town employees. There was concern that this budget is trying to correct too many past deficiencies all at once. Add to that the need to appropriately fund all of the reserves and the resulting tax increase may be too much for the taxpayers to bear. Mr. Morris said that paying the employees fairly was most important to him. Ms. Murphy was not comfortable with not funding the reserve accounts. The final consensus was to increase employee wages by 4% and put the balance into the reserve accounts for the smaller vehicles (police cruiser, highway dept. pick-up). Some employees will receive a bit more than the 6% because they are overdue for other increases. It was agreed that there should be steady progress toward improvements with each budget cycle.

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Mr. Butler had compiled wage data that Ms. Murphy had requested. What the data revealed was that some employees had indeed received wage increases in the past three years but also a complete lack of consistency in how employees receive increases. It was agreed that by the next budget cycle there will be in place a structure for merit increases and incentives that apply to all employees.

The Land Use Administrator's position has been reduced back to 29 hours (24 hours plus overtime).

The revised budget will be ready for the next meeting.

9. Appointments

No appointments were made.

10. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for 12/19/2016 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$30,631.45
	Payroll	\$15,215.17
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$8,412.74
	Payroll	\$9,357.66
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$4,091.13
	Payroll	\$950.17
Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Reserves		\$5,438.50
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$48,573.83
	Payroll	\$25,523.00

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

11. Future Meeting Agenda Items

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12. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mrs. Esty **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

Daniel E. Boyer, Chairperson

C. Peter Cole, Selector

Kelly Murphy, Clerk

Lynn Esty, Vice-Chairperson

Amy Beth Main, Selector