

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board

West Weathersfield Fire Station
7259 Route 131, Perkinsville, Vermont

Monday, September 19th, 2016

7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

APPROVED 10/3/2016

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

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Edith Stillson	Eric Berquist	Susan Hindinger	Colin Butler
Shana Louiselle, VELCO	Darrin Spaulding	Arthur Gates	Ray Stapleton
Daniel Poulin, VELCO	Josh Dauphin	Brenda Richardson	

1. Call to Order

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

2. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager

There were no comments from the Board or Manager.

3. Comments from Citizens on topics not on the agenda

Brenda Richardson asked the Board to put the river house back on the agenda. Mr. Boyer said he would have it added to the next meeting agenda.

Josh Dauphin said the WWVFD is having a coin drop on October 8th (rain date October 9th). The proper paperwork has been filed with and signed off on by the State. Police Chief Daniels has signed off locally.

4. Review minutes from previous meetings – 9/6/2016

Additions/corrections/deletions:

- Change “Hoisington Field” to “Weathersfield School” in item #2
- Change “to move forward with the proceedings to reclassify” to “to look further into the situation” in the first sentence of paragraph two, item #6.

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 6th as amended.

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

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Vote: Unanimous in favor

5. VELCO Project Discussion (Continued from 9/6/2016)

Daniel Poulin, Program Manager for VELCO, gave a comprehensive presentation on the upcoming work that will be done on the transmission lines between the Coolidge and Ascutney substations. Additional work will be done at the Ascutney substation. The intent of the presentation was to give people a realistic idea of what to expect over the next year. Highway Superintendent Westley Hazeltine has been working closely with VELCO on the access points to the power line right-of-way. Power will be redirected around the work zone during construction so hopefully there will be no interruptions in power. The project is scheduled to start on January 23rd and should be completed by September 2017. At Darrin Spaulding's request, VELCO representatives will work with the fire chiefs to ensure emergency access points are mapped and accessible by emergency equipment before construction begins.

6. Quarry Road Update (Continued from 9/6/2016)

Town Manager Morris presented some of the history of Quarry Road. The road is currently a Class 3 town highway to the old quarry, where it becomes Class 4 to the town line. He reviewed the process for reclassifying a town highway. Mr. Boyer read an email received by the Board from Emergency Management Director, Dave Fuller, who objected to the road being closed. He said it was considered as an alternate access to Baltimore in the days following Tropical Storm Irene. Mr. Morris has not yet spoken to Baltimore about this matter. He said there is now a traffic counter on the road for the Town to gather data. It will be there for 4-5 weeks. Sue Hindinger asked that the counter be moved a bit further back so as to get better speed data. She repeated that her primary concerns are the increase in the amount of through traffic; the speed of the through traffic; the littering; the safety of the residents on Quarry Road; the increased cost to the Town of maintaining the road; and the fact that improvements were made to the road without benefit of permits or public input. She said that a petition is in the works.

Ms. Murphy suggested that Mr. Morris begin communications with the Town of Baltimore right away. It was again repeated that some of the improvements were made on the Weathersfield side of the town line by the Town. Ms. Main said she met the FedEx truck coming through from Baltimore when she was there recently. Mr. Morris said he would speak to Chief Daniels about patrolling the road for speeding cars.

7. Strategic Planning/Budget Discussion (Continued from 9/6/2016)

Mr. Morris led a discussion on the questions that the Board members had been asked to answer independently. The questions included:

- Why does local government exist?

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- Whom do we serve?
- What benefits are derived from the services we provide?
- (What is your) vision of how the citizens' needs can best be served?
- Where are we as a town currently?
- Where do we want to be in the future?
- How do we get there from here?

Mr. Morris and the Board discussed the answers that they had given.

Strengths listed were snow plowing, the volunteer fire departments, police department, and school choice. Mr. Morris said to use our budget to protect what we are good at.

Weaknesses included the fire services issues; a (perceived) heavy reliance on grants to run the town instead of planning and saving; the lack of wastewater disposal infrastructure in Perkinsville. Mr. Morris said we should plan to pay for projects, but be in a position to take advantage of grants when they are available.

Opportunities proved more elusive. Ms. Murphy acknowledged that this is a daunting task.

Threats included the rising cost of the long-term debt schedule.

They discussed various ways of gathering public input and acknowledged the difficulty of reaching everyone for their opinion. All agreed that a variety of tools will be needed.

Mr. Morris asked the Board to think about these questions and ideas as they move into budget season. These discussions will help the Board when making tough budget choices and decisions.

8. Budget Update

Mr. Butler said there is nothing “out of line” at this point in the fiscal year. He said it was too early in the budget to trust any variances. At two months into the year, budgets should stand at 16%-17% spent. He said delinquent taxes are very, very low.

9. Fire Services Discussion

The Fire Commission held a meeting on September 7th. It was attended by all members. Mr. Boyer read the minutes of the meeting to the Board.

At 9:02, the Board had to decide whether or not to continue the meeting.

Motion: To extend the meeting to the end of the agenda.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

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The Fire Commission meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at alternating fire stations. The next meeting will be on October 5th at 7PM at WWVFD.

10. Resignation from Zoning Board of Adjustment/Chelsea Chase

Motion: To accept the resignation of Chelsea Chase from the Zoning Board.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

11. Appointments

There were no appointments to make.

12. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for September 19, 2016 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$43,862.48
	Payroll	\$13,026.65
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$30,474.02
	Payroll	\$8,434.39
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$11,059.71
	Payroll	\$1,081.81
Library	Operating Expenses	\$2,086.13
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$384.50
Reserves		\$254.50
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$88,121.34
	Payroll	\$22,542.85

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

There is a vacancy at the transfer station. It is being advertised. Mr. Spaulding explained the costs incurred for Engine 1.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

13. Future Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Murphy asked Mr. Boyer to provide the Board members with information on any of his activities undertaken as Board chairperson between meetings. She said she feels like

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she is missing background information when she arrives at the meetings because she doesn't know what has transpired in between. She said she wanted to move away from the Chair being the hub of all information – that the chair should only run the meetings.

14. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

Daniel E. Boyer, Chairperson

C. Peter Cole, Selector

Kelly Murphy, Selector

Lynn Esty, Selector

Amy Beth Main, Selector