

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

**Select Board Agenda
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney, VT
Thursday, January 5th, 2017
7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING**

REVISED

1. Call to Order
2. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager
3. Comments from citizens on topics not on agenda
4. Review minutes from previous meeting(s) 12/19/2016
5. Joint meeting with School Board to review budgets
6. Hazard Mitigation Grant RFP
7. Budget (Reserves Proposal)
8. Review Warning for Town Meeting
9. Appointments
 - a. Connecticut River Development Corporation
 - b. Representative
 - c. Alternate
 - d. Connecticut River Joint Commission
 - e. Conservation Commission (One four year term open)
 - f. Energy Committee
 - g. Parks and Recreation Commission (One Opening)
 - h. River Connection Regional Partnership Representative
 - i. Senior Solutions Advisory Council Representative
 - j. Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. Representative
 - k. Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commissioner
 - l. Southern Windsor County Transportation Advisory Committee
10. Approve Warrant
11. Future Meeting Agenda Items
 - A. 01/16/2017
 - Aging In Place

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B. Future Agendas

Act 148 Universal Recycling, Mary O'Brien and Ham Gillett

Hazmat Ordinance

Transfer Station

Quarry Road Count Compared to Other Road Counts

10. Adjourn

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Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Thursday, January 5, 2017
7:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES
APPROVED 1/16/2017

Select Board Members Present: Daniel Boyer
Lynn Esty
Amy Beth Main
Kelly Murphy

Select Board Members Absent: C. Peter Cole

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Bonnie D. Dupray Nancy Heatley Charles Horton
Wanda Gropler Edith Stillson Colin Butler

1. Call to Order

Mr. Boyer called the meeting to order at 7:13PM.

2. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager

Mrs. Esty asked to have a discussion regarding the cost of trucking fill taken from the Gravelin Road pond added to the next agenda.

3. Comments from Citizens on topics not on the agenda

Mr. Horton asked about pay raises for the Town employees. When informed it was budgeted (thus far) at 4%, Mr. Horton objected to the size of the raise and said he would actively work to get the budget defeated if it was not changed.

4. Review minutes from previous meetings – 12/19/2016

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. None

Motion: To accept the minutes of the December 19th meeting as written.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

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5. Hazard Mitigation Grant RFP

Mr. Morris said he had received two responses to the RFP – one from a firm in Massachusetts and one from Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC). He compared the pros and cons of each response and recommended that the bid be awarded to the SWCRPC.

Motion: To recommend awarding the bid for the hazardous mitigation grant to SWCRPC.

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

Vote: Ms. Murphy abstained on the grounds that she is employed by SWCRPC; all others voted in favor. Motion carries.

6. Budget (reserves Proposal)

Mr. Morris explained that he is striving for a sustainable, level tax rate by building the reserves to where they can offset the cost of capital purchases.

At this point in the meeting, the Board took a five-minute recess to allow the School Board to join the meeting and get set up.

Joint School Board/Select Board Meeting

The School Board had been invited to present their budget to the Select Board so that the Select Board could be aware of the School Board's budget before the Town budget is finalized. The School Board had just approved their budget right before joining the Select Board.

Once settled, the two boards introduced themselves to each other. Ed Connors, CFO of the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union, provided a summarized explanation of how funding is derived for the school; explained the expenditures and then the tax rate.

The homestead tax rate will be 1.6724, an \$0.0871 increase. The non-homestead rate will be 1.5690.

There was a \$441,000 surplus last year. The school will use half of it to lower the tax rate. The other half will be set aside for next year. The voters will have to approve moving the funds to a reserve.

Special education costs are being equalized across the union, which helps reduce large fluctuations in the tax rate.

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At the conclusion of the presentation, everyone expressed their gratitude for facilitating the joint meeting and agreed to continue working together in the future to help offset variations in tax rates from each budget.

The Select Board took another 5-minute recess to give the School Board time to leave.

Resumption of Select Board Meeting

Motion: To continue the meeting past 9:00 PM to finish the agenda.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Mr. Morris repeated what School Superintendent David Baker had said during the joint meeting - that the Town's reserves are too low. However, with a \$0.017 increase in the school tax and a projected \$0.053 increase in the Town budget, the Town will have to be frugal with the reserves. The Board spent some time reviewing the various reserve accounts.

The Board then reviewed the articles on the warrant for Town Meeting.

Article 4: Fire District. Mr. Boyer and Mr. Morris summarized the discussions with the Fire Commission regarding this article. There was discussion as to whether the article would be voted on the floor or by Australian ballot. Mr. Morris will get confirmation of the proper method.

Articles 7-9: Mr. Morris said that the numbers shown are subject to change due to the outcome of the school budget.

Article 10: This was originally supposed to be a 3-year loan, but it was changed to a 5-year loan to spread out and reduce the size of the payments. The goal is to spread out the large expenditures and consolidate the small ones to help level out the tax rate.

The school budget was supposed to have decreased by \$0.11. Instead it is increasing because of the CLA. The Town was planning to increase its tax rate by \$0.10, but that will not be possible now.

Articles 17-29: Nonprofit requests. Mr. Morris said the agencies in Articles 28 and 29 had not submitted all of the information that the Town had requested despite several reminders by the Town.

Motion: To remove articles 28 and 29 based on incomplete applications.

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

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Vote: Unanimous in favor

7. Appointments

There were no appointments.

8. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for 1/5/2017 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$47,238.24
	Payroll	\$12,629.79
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$18,735.00
	Payroll	\$11,025.37
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$8,425.41
	Payroll	\$1,090.75
Library	Operating Expenses	\$351.94
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$1,650.00
Reserves		\$325.00
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$76,725.59
	Payroll	\$24,745.91

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Mr. Boyer said that the Highway Department and Transfer Station employees should be commended for excellent work over the last couple of weeks.

The Board questioned where they stood on the FY18 budget. Mr. Morris said he hoped it would be finalized at the next regular meeting of the Board. The Board, however, was leery that trying to finish the budget in one meeting would be too much. It was agreed to schedule a special meeting for January 12th to discuss the budget in detail and then finalize it on the 16th.

9. Future Meeting Agenda Items

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10. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

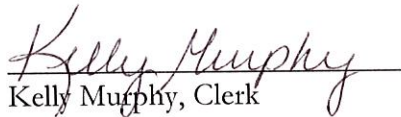
The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

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

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