

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Monday, November 20, 2017
7:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES
APPROVED 12/4/2017

Select Board Members Present: Daniel Boyer
C. Peter Cole (arrived at 7:04 PM)
Lynn Esty
Amy Beth Main
Kelly Murphy

Select Board Members Absent:

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Wanda Gropler	Bette Jo Esty	Darrin Spaulding
Charles Horton	John Esty	Cameron Paquette
Edith Stillson	Ray Stapleton	Bob Rivers

1. Call to Order

Ms. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager

Mr. Morris said the last of the Village Revitalization workshops/public meetings had been held. He thanked everyone who had participated. The public input received will go into writing the Village Revitalization chapter for the Town Plan. The amended Plan will be presented to the Select Board and Planning Commission at a public meeting in January. It is hoped that the Planning Commission will sign off on the amended Plan in April with Select Board adoption to follow. Mr. Morris and Mr. Rasmussen will also be getting input from the middle school students before the chapter is completed.

Ms. Main said a resident had contacted her about availability of high speed fiber lines in Town. The resident said they had contacted EC Fiber and had been told that the Town had voted against it in 2014. Ms. Main did not know if that was a Board decision or Town vote and had asked Mr. Morris to look into it. Ms. Main said she had a copy of the email response from EC Fiber specifically referencing a 2014 vote as the reason they weren't coming to Weathersfield.

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Mr. Morris said access to high speed internet was brought up at almost every Village Revitalization meeting.

(Mr. Cole arrives.)

No one could remember such a vote being taken. Mr. Morris said he would investigate further.

3. Comments from Citizens on topics not on the agenda

There were no comments from citizens.

4. Review minutes from previous meetings – 10/19/2017

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. None

Motion: To accept the minutes of 10/19/2017

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Review minutes from previous meetings – 11/06/2017

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. pg 5 of 8: Add “Mr. Barrup was present at the walk through with Troy Dare, the landowners, and the Fire Commission Chair Lynn Esty.”

Motion: To accept the minutes of 11/06/2017 with the addition.

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

Vote: Unanimous

(The November 8th minutes were tabled to the next meeting because they were in the packet but not on the agenda.)

5. Approve and sign fire contract

Mr. Morris said he had made the changes requested at the November 8th meeting.

Both fire chiefs had signed the contract today.

Motion: To approve the signing of the fire contract

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

Ms. Kelly thanked both chiefs, both departments, their representatives, and the members. The process went smoothly and was well attended. There were lots of good conversations. The process of combining two contracts into one was a good step forward.

Mr. Spaulding thanked the Board for their patience.

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Vote on the motion: Unanimous in favor

(Mr. Cole: “Where's the champagne?”)

Mr. Horton: “No drinking on Town property!”)

Ms. Murphy said the contract is good until 2020.

The Board members signed the contract.

Ms. Murphy thanked Mrs. Esty for “navigating and staying on this process as the Fire Commission chair. She has done a great job with the Fire Commission and we very much want to thank you.”

6. Carley Road Name Change Request

Bob Rivers and the three other homeowners on Carley Road asked the Board to change the name of Carley Road to Stone Hill Farm Road. The homeowners have had multiple issues with undelivered packages, GPS confusion, lost travelers, and more. Mr. Rivers presented the request to the Board. The Board packet contained letters of support from the other three homeowners.

Mr. Morris said the issue can be resolved with a vote of the Board. He recommended postponing the vote until the next meeting to allow public comment.

The Board discussed various ways of resolving the issue including calling the whole stretch of road Stokes Road.

Ms. Murphy thanked Mr. Rivers for a comprehensive presentation and asked him to return to the next Select Board meeting (December 4th). Mr. Rivers may have to participate by phone as he will be out of town at that time.

7. Policy Review

a. Alcohol Consumption on Town-owned Property

There were no comments and no questions.

Motion: To approve the Alcohol Consumption on Town-owned Property policy dated 5/21/2012.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

b. Weathersfield Outdoor Parks and Recreation Facility Tobacco-Free Policy

There was a typo in the last *Whereas* statement; the Tenney Hill Road pond property is no longer owned by the Town; and the Town Forest needs to be added to the list of Town-

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owned properties. It was agreed to amend the last sentence in the *Therefore* statement to read, “*These facilities include, but are not limited to,...*”.

Motion: To accept the policy as amended as a first reading and move it to a second reading

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

c. Standards and Procedures for Engaging Technical Review

There was some confusion as to the purpose of this policy which deForest explained. Once its purpose was understood, the Board agreed to move it to a second reading with no changes.

d. Safety and Wellness Policy and Mission

Mr. Morris said the Town used to have a safety committee, but there isn't one presently. He plans to re-establish it once staff turn-over is reduced as it helps reduce insurance costs for the Town.

There is one typo to be corrected.

Motion: To accept the policy

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

8. Compensation Plan Proposal

Mr. Morris presented his analysis of compensation for various municipal positions and proposed his compensation scale and long-term compensation proposal. The presentation highlighted how difficult it can be to make such comparisons between towns.

The matter will be discussed again at the next meeting. Mr. Morris asked the Board to come to a decision on it before entering the annual budget process.

9. Budget Process Discussion

a. Plan

Mr. Morris would like to present the budget to the Board and the Budget Committee at the same time. (At present there is only one person on the Budget Committee.) The Board agreed with this idea.

It was agreed that the Board should meet jointly with the School Board again this year and perhaps meet at the school this time (alternate meeting sites each year).

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b. Dates

Mr. Morris would like to start presenting the budget at the December 4th meeting and again at the December 18th meeting. Mr. Morris asked to have the January 2nd meeting moved to January 3rd.

10. 2018 Budget Review

Mr. Morris said that overall the town finances are in good shape. We are at 37.5% of the year. The Planning and Zoning budget is over, but the reasons are known. The Regional Planning expense is double what was budgeted and the reason is not known. Mr. Morris will look into it.

11. Board of Liquor Commissioners

Ms. Murphy recessed the Select Board meeting at 8:30 PM and convened the Board of Liquor Commissioners.

a. First/Second Class Liquor License

a.i. Coco Mart Inc/DBA Jiffy Mart

The new Jiffy Mart is planning to open by December 27th.

Motion: To grant a 2nd class license to Coco Mart Inc d/b/a Jiffy Mart

Made by: Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mr. Cole

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The Board of Liquor Commissioners was recessed and the Select Board meeting reconvened.

12. Accept SB Resignation

Mrs. Esty submitted a letter of resignation from the Select Board and Fire Commission citing changes in life circumstances as the reasons for resigning.

Motion: To accept the resignation of Lynn Esty, effective on November 22, 2017, from the Select Board and Fire Commission, with tremendous gratitude for her years of service and commitment to Weathersfield and our residents.

Made by: Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mr. Cole

Vote: Mrs. Esty abstained; all others voted in favor

Everyone acknowledged that Mrs. Esty will be missed and wished her the best in her college endeavors.

Mr. Morris said he will be accepting letters of interest from citizens wishing to complete Mrs. Esty's term for the next month. An appointment will be made at the start of the year. In March the Town will vote on a replacement for the remaining year of the term.

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The Board Clerk can serve as Vice-chair as needed.

There is now a need for a replacement for fire commission representative from the Board. It was suggested that the Fire Commission be suspended until after town meeting if no one wants to be representative.

13. Appointments

No appointments were sought or made.

14. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for November 20, 2017 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$68,246.79
	Payroll	\$12,865.90
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$53,655.07
	Payroll	\$8,386.05
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$6,589.14
	Payroll	\$1,387.15
Library	Operating Expenses	\$1,809.17
	Payroll	\$1,541.13
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$2,075.00
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$550.00
Dry Hydrant Fund	Operating Expenses	\$424.93
Reserves	Operating Expenses	\$50.00
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$133,400.10
	Payroll	\$24,180.23

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

15. Executive Session as per 1 V.S.A. §313(3)

Motion: To enter executive session per 1 V.S.A §313(3)

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

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The Board went into executive session at 8:47 PM and came out at 9:17 PM.

Motion: To cover two months of health insurance for Westley Hazeltine upon his retirement on April 5, 2018.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

16. Future Meeting Agenda Items

17. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

Daniel E. Boyer, Selector

C. Peter Cole, Selector

Kelly Murphy, Chairperson

Lynn Esty, Vice-Chairperson

Amy Beth Main, Clerk