

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Monday, March 19, 2018
7:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES
APPROVED 4/2/2018

Select Board Members Present: N. John Arrison
Daniel Boyer
C. Peter Cole
Kelly Murphy

Select Board Members Absent: Tom Leach

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Allen Tate	Diane Hodgdon	Ray Stapleton
Jordana Jusiduran	Dusty Hodgdon	Wes Hazeltine
Edith Stillson	Darlene Kelly	

1. Call to Order

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

2. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager

Ms. Murphy read an email from Reading resident, Shirley Royce, complimenting the staff at the transfer station for their friendly and courteous service.

3. Comments from Citizens on topics not on the agenda

There were no comments from citizens.

4. Review minutes from previous meetings – 3/5/2018

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. Correct the spelling of Michael Lewallen's name

Motion: To accept the minutes as corrected

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Review minutes from previous meetings – 3/8/2018

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. Page 2 – new snow plow/truck

Motion: Accept the minutes as corrected

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

5. Preferred Site Request and presentation for Hodgdon Solar Project/GroSolar

Allen Tate from GroSolar gave a brief summary of the term “net metering”. He then presented the new plans for a solar array project to be located on the Hodgdon's property on Route 5.

Benefits of this project include property taxes to the Town (about \$4000 annually) and state education taxes of about \$3000 annually; generation of enough power for 82 homes; and the offset of approximately 683 metric tons of carbon.

This project was previously considered to generate 5 megawatts of electricity. However, the project would have required substantial upgrades to the grid, which made it unfeasible.

This plan is substantially smaller - only 500 Kwatts. It will still be located on the same 5 acres of Hodgdon land. There will be sufficient setback from vernal pools and wetlands, and there will be minimal tree clearing to permit construction and limit shading. The entire 5 acres will be fenced. The site is naturally screened from Route 5. There are no views from neighboring properties.

Mr. Tate asked the Board to write a letter of support for the project and to designate this as a preferred site. Technically the site doesn't meet the criteria for a preferred site designation, but the Town and the Regional Planning Commission can help make it so.

The project has a 25-year lifespan. It will be decommissioned after 25 years and the site will be restored to its original state. Alternatively, the contract could be renegotiated and new panels installed.

The battery has been removed from the project, so there will be no sound issues.

The Planning Commission has signed off already. The project will be presented to the Regional Planning Commission next week.

Motion: Approve signing of the preferred site letter and recommending the approval of the proposed building site to the Regional Planning Commission

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

6. Discuss the uses of the Town Seal and other Town Identification

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Ms. Murphy noticed that the Town Seal was being used on Nancy McMenemy's private blog; and asked Mr. Morris what the parameters are for using it. Mr. Morris said it was something for the Board to discuss.

While the seal is seen as the official symbol of the Town, it is not trademarked and the Board must determine how it is to be used. Mr. Arrison said that since it wasn't trademarked, the Town may not have much say in how it is used. Mr. Cole disagreed and felt the Town has the right to ask people not to use it. Mr. Boyer felt that no one but the Town should use it. Mr. Hazeltine remembered that this same topic had come up a year ago. The consensus of the Board was that the Manager should move forward with getting the seal trademarked and to control how it is used.

Motion: To authorize the Town Manager to spend the funds to trademark the town seal

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion: To authorize the Town Manager to address any social media posts or other form of advertising or propaganda when it is presented in a way that depicts the Town as a participating party.

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

Ms. Murphy asked that the Town of Weathersfield Facebook page be differentiated in some way from other Weathersfield pages.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

7. Select Board/Town Manager Goals

Mr. Morris presented a list of goals for 2018.

Mr. Cole said he would like to see the fire services plan more toward the top of the list. Mr. Morris agreed to move it to between items 2 and 3.

Ms. Murphy said she would like to see the initial budget presentation in July, even if the numbers are going to change later, or even with no numbers, but with the new format so the Board has time to get familiar with it. Mr. Morris agreed.

Mr. Arrison asked to have resolution of the cell tower debacle (the tower behind Strobel's) added to the list and to consider re-opening the swap shop.

8. Budget Update

Ms. Kelly gave an update of the state of the budgets. The general and highway funds are in good shape. She is keeping an eye on the solid waste fund. Ms. Kelly is working well with Mr. Stapleton and Mr. Hazeltine; the library; and the fire chiefs.

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9. Board of Liquor Control Commissioners

Ms. Murphy recessed the Select Board meeting at 7:38 PM and opened the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners.

a. Abbott Brown Inc./dba Inn at Weathersfield, The

a.i. First Class License Renewal

Motion: Approve the liquor license renewal for the Inn at Weathersfield

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

Mr. Morris said that Chief Daniels has no problem with this renewal.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

At 7:39 PM, Ms. Murphy closed the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners meeting and re-opened the Select Board meeting.

10. Approve 2018 Police Patrol Contract with US Army Corps of Engineers

Motion: Approve the Town Manager to enter into a contract for police services to be provided to the Army Corps of Engineers for the 2018 season (with the removal of Jim Mullen's name on page 2)

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

11. Appointments

a. Acting Town Manager

a.i. Darlene Kelly

Motion: To appoint Darlene Kelly as Acting Town Manager

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

b. Animal Control Officer

b.i. Cathy Sullivan

Motion: To appoint Cathy Sullivan as Animal Control Officer

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

c. Budget Committee (Five Openings)

c.i. Cynthia Porter

Motion: To appoint Cynthia Porter to the budget committee

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

d. Constable

d.i. William Daniels

Motion: To appoint William Daniels as Constable

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

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e. Emergency Management Coordinator

e.i. Michael Lewallen – this appointment was tabled

f. Energy Coordinator

f.i. Julia Lloyd Wright

Motion: To appoint Julia Lloyd Wright as Energy Coordinator

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

g. Fire Commission

g.i. Tim Austin

Motion: To appoint Tim Austin to the Fire Commission

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

g.ii. Nancy Nutile-McMenemy

Motion: To appoint Nancy Nutile-McMenemy to the Fire Commission

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

h. Martin Memorial Hall Trustees (Three Openings)

h.i. Edith Stillson

h.ii. Lynn Houghton

Motion: To appoint Edith Stillson and Lynn Houghton to the Martin Memorial Hall Trustees

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion:

h.iii. Janet Bristol

Motion: To appoint Janet Bristol to the Martin Memorial Hall Trustees

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

i. Parks and Recreation Commission

i.i. Michelle Gald

i.ii. Susan Boyer

i.iii. Julia Lloyd Wright

Motion: Move to appoint Michelle Gald, Susan Boyer, and Julia Lloyd Wright to the Parks and Recreation Commission

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

Vote: Mr. Boyer abstained; all others voted in favor

j. Planning Commission

j.i. Howard Beach (remaining 3 years from unexpired 4-year term)

Motion: Appoint Howard Beach for the remaining 3 years of the unexpired 4-year term on the Planning Commission

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

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Vote: Unanimous in favor

k. Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District

k.i. Ed Morris

Motion: To appoint Mr. Morris to the Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

l. Surveyor of Wood and Lumber

l.i. Roderick "Rick" Bates

Motion: To appoint Roderick "Rick" Bates as Surveyor of Wood and Lumber

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

m. Town Pound

m.i. Home of Cathy Sullivan at 21 Hartford Street, Claremont, NH

Motion: To approve the home of Cathy Sullivan at 21 Hartford Street, Claremont NH as the town pound

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

n. Tree Warden

n.i. Ray Stapleton

Motion: To appoint Ray Stapleton as Tree Warden

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

o. Weigher of Coal

o.i. Roderick "Rick" Bates

o.ii. John Arrison

Motion: To appoint John Arrison as Weigher of Coal

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

p. Zoning Board of Adjustment (Five Openings)

p.i. Willis Wood

Motion: To appoint Willis Wood to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

12. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for March 19, 2018 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$44,201.47
	Payroll	\$13,970.52

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Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$89,884.15
	Payroll	\$12,307.52
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$4,336.60
	Payroll	\$1,418.44
Library	Operating Expenses	\$2,675.21
	Payroll	\$1,507.10
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$
Reserves		\$
Long Term Debt		\$
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$141,097.43
	Payroll	\$29,203.58

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

13. Future Meeting Agenda Items

- a. Ordinances review
- b. Fund balance discussion

14. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

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N. John Arrison

Daniel E. Boyer, Selector

C. Peter Cole, Vice-Chairperson

Tom Leach, Selector

Kelly Murphy, Chairperson