

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Monday, February 18, 2019
7:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES
APPROVED 3/4/2019

Select Board Members Present: N. John Arrison
Daniel Boyer
C. Peter Cole
Tom Leach
Kelly Murphy (arrived at 7:07 PM)

Select Board Members Absent:

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Jeff Epstein	Paul Tillman	Michael Todd
David Fuller	Steve Hier	Edith Stillson

1. Call to Order

Mr. Cole called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He suggested tabling discussion of the consent calendar until Ms. Murphy was present. The discussion moved to item #3.

2. Consent Calendar

- a. **Review Minutes from Previous Meeting: 2/1/2019**
- b. **Review Minutes from Previous Meeting: 2/7/2019**
- c. **Approve Warrant**

(Taken up at 7:20PM)

Mr. Morris said the consent calendar was presented on this agenda for the board to discuss and decide if it wishes to continue the practice. Mr. Morris explained that routine items such as minutes and the warrant can be placed on the consent calendar and voted on with a single motion. It is designed to save meeting time. Items can be removed from the calendar at the request of a board member or the public for any reason and discussed as individual items.

All items on the consent calendar are available for public viewing on the town website in the board's weekly packets.

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While it is not necessary to read the warrant, it was agreed to put the total dollar amounts in the calendar.

It was tentatively agreed to try the consent calendar for a bit, but not at this meeting, because Mr. Arrison wanted to pull items a and c from it.

Motion: To approve the minutes of 2/1/2019

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion: To approve the minutes of 2/7/2019

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

Mr. Arrison said that "Ascutney Trails Association" on page 7 should be changed to "Ascutney Outdoors". All agreed to the change.

Vote: Unanimous in favor as amended

Motion: To approve the warrants for 2/18/2019 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$17,290.17
	Payroll	\$14,194.24
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$23,249.65
	Payroll	\$11,029.10
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$5,158.12
	Payroll	\$1,514.92
Library	Operating Expenses	\$4,773.26
	Payroll	\$1,933.92
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$131.61
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Reserves		\$0.00
Long Term Debt		\$0.00
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$50,602.81
	Payroll	\$28,672.18

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

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Mr. Arrison asked why Tyler's entire payroll shows up under solid waste, when it should be split with highway. Mr. Morris said he would look into it, though he assured Mr. Arrison that Tyler's actual pay is split between the two departments.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

3. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager

Mr. Boyer said thank you to the road crew for doing such a wonderful job this year.

4. Comments from Citizens on topics not on the agenda

Dave Fuller made some comments and suggestions on the new web site. He said he had some questions regarding the fire department and didn't realize there was to be a public meeting on the matter on the 21st (couldn't find it on the new website.) He offered to present his questions here to give the board time to prepare answers before the next meeting. His questions were:

1 – is there a firm agreement between the town and the 2 departments?

2 – how much money of the fiscal year 17 that is being compared was actually raised by taxes?

3 – according to the 2018 town report, \$22,000 was transferred from the fire commission budget to the fire equipment reserve; but the balance in that same reserve was \$6,000 at the end of the year. He asked why they don't line up. He said it was being shown as an expense, when he felt it really wasn't an expense – it was placed in the reserve account.

Mr. Fuller said he planned to attend the meeting on the 21st.

NOTE: The next meeting on the fire department will be on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 6PM-8PM.

5. Accept FY2018 Audit – Presented by Steve Hier, Town Treasurer

Mr. Hier said he does not yet have the final version of the audit. He hopes it will be available for the first March meeting.

(Ms. Murphy arrives 7:07 PM.)

6. Approve CD-Resolution - Presented by Steve Hier, Town Treasurer

Mr. Hier said that CD rates have begun to increase a bit, while the rates on our Money Market accounts are still very low. He said it makes sense in some cases such as reserve funds (\$700,000) which won't be spent in the immediate future – to invest a portion of the funds in a CD at 1.75% interest rather than leave it in the MM account at 0.2%.

Bank regulations now require a resolution from the select board to be on file for opening of CDs. There are two options for meeting this regulation: having the board make a resolution

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each time Mr. Hier feels it's appropriate to open a CD; OR the board makes a single omnibus or blanket resolution leaving the process to occur as Mr. Hier sees fit.

After some discussion, it was agreed to to do the omnibus resolution.

Motion: To set up an omnibus where our treasurer gets to set up CDs

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

7. Board of Liquor Control Commissioners

Ms. Murphy recessed the Select Board meeting at 7:20 PM and convened the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners.

a. First-Class Liquor License Renewal

a.i. Abbott Brown Inc/DBA Inn at Weathersfield

b. Second-Class Liquor License Renewal

b.i. Global Montello/DBA Jiffy Mart (Store #466 Ascutney)

b.ii. Global Montello/DBA Jiffy Mart (Store #467 Downers)

Mr. Morris said that Police Chief Daniels had no problems with renewing any of these licenses.

Motion: To accept the first class liquor license for Abbott Brown and the second class liquor licenses both for Global Montello

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

Mr. Arrison suggested that some one remind the Inn at Weathersfield that they need to renew their outdoor consumption license as it is not contained in the first class license.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Ms. Murphy closed the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners and resumed the select board meeting at 7:20 PM.

The board moved to discuss the consent calendar at this point.

8. Ordinance Review

a. Repeal Advertising Ordinance (3rd reading, cont. from 4/16/2018)

b. Animal Cruelty (3rd reading, cont. from 4/16/2018)

c. Repeal Child Safety Ordinance (3rd reading, cont. from 9/4/2018)

d. Highway Access (3rd reading, cont. from 8/20/2018)

e. Large Assembly (3rd reading, cont. from 8/6/2018)

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f. Repeal Mobile Home ordinance (3rd reading, cont. from 8/20/2018)

Motion: To repeal the advertising ordinance

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion: To repeal the child safety ordinance (on the grounds that the town has no authority in this matter)

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

Vote: 1 abstention, 4 in favor

Motion: To repeal the mobile home ordinance (on the grounds that the matter is covered in the zoning ordinance)

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The animal cruelty ordinance was amended to only allow a waiver penalty on the first offense.

Motion: To approve as amended

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The highway access ordinance is amended to remove section 2A on the town attorney's recommendation.

Motion: To amend and approve the highway access ordinance

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The large assembly ordinance is amended to remove athletic fields.

Motion: To approve as amended

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

9. Sand Pile Discussion

(Mr. Stapleton had hoped to be present for this discussion, but as he had been up since 4:00 AM today, he was unable to attend.)

Mr. Morris said that over 180 cubic yards of sand (about \$2,000 worth) have been dispensed from the town office parking lot this year. We want residents to have access to needed sand, but much of it has been going to contractors and people who are not residents of Weathersfield.

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It was suggested that the town look into putting up signage and a camera while also developing a policy to address the issue.

Mr. Stapleton has also been trying to discourage people from accessing the large sand pile at the highway garage by providing a smaller pile away from the large pile.

Mr. Morris suggested continuing the discussion when Mr. Stapleton could be present.

10. Gas Tax Resolution

Ms. Murphy said the Waterbury select board is asking select boards across the state to support a four-cent gas tax to fund municipal highway projects. They predict the tax would raise \$10M in revenue.

Ms. Murphy said she wanted the board to send a response to Waterbury, regardless of what it is and asked each board member to voice their opinion.

Mr. Boyer said the state always seems to turn to gas every time there's a shortfall. He said there's already a lot of tax on gas – federal and state and felt there must be another way.

Ms. Murphy felt the proposal was too vague for her support – e.g. “details to be worked out later”. She said she wanted to know how much for how long, and to have a guarantee that the funds would be used in the way in which it is said they will be. She felt they should take the time to put this together properly first; then ask for support.

Mr. Arrison agreed that the state tax should be increased; gas is cheap right now so it seems like it's a good time to do it. He said just take a look at Route 5.

Mr. Cole said he has a philosophical problem with earmarking these funds to go to highways. A gas tax in general is supposed to be trickled down; the problem is the legislature – they should set the tax correctly and send the right amount to the towns.

Mr. Leach agreed with Mr. Cole. He said it needs to be revamped entirely. \$10m statewide isn't enough and it won't accomplish much.

The consensus of the board was that this needs more work. Ms. Murphy will write up the board's discussion and send it to Waterbury.

11. Review Town Meeting Presentation

The board went through the slides Mr. Morris had prepared for the town meeting presentation so each board member could choose what they would present.

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It was agreed that due to the importance of the fire department discussion, Mr. Cole should ask the meeting to go to Article 9 first, then go back to the discussion of the General Fund.

The final division of labor is as follows:

Slides 2, 7, 12, 14, 20 (top), 22 (top), 27 – Mr. Cole

Slides 3, 4, 11 - Mr. Boyer

Slides 5, 6, 15 – Ms. Murphy

Slides 8, 9, 10, 20 (bottom), 21 – Mr. Arrison

Slide 13, 22 (bottom), 23, 24 – Mr. Leach

Slides 17, 18, 19, 25, 26 (reverse order of 25 and 26 in the presentation) – Mr. Morris

The fire departments will be encouraged to help with the discussion. The newsprint pages of the fire chief's duties should be posted at the meeting as well as the two key points from Wood's report. The total number of hours of meeting time used to discuss this matter should be calculated and available for the meeting (starting with August 13th Fire Commission meeting).

12. Appointments

a. Planning Commission (4-year term) Tyler Harwell

Ms. Murphy read the list of openings.

Tyler Harwell emailed the town office asking to be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Motion: To accept Tyler Harwell to be appointed to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

13. Executive Session as per 1 V.S.A. §313(3) (Town Manager Evaluation)

At 8:37 the board entered executive session.

Motion: To enter executive session as per 1 V.S.A. §313(3) for the Town Manager's Evaluation.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The board came out of executive session at 9:11 pm. No action was taken.

14. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

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The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

N. John Arrison, Selector

Daniel E. Boyer, Selector

C. Peter Cole, Vice-Chairperson

Tom Leach, Clerk

Kelly Murphy, Chairperson