

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board

Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT

Monday, March 4, 2019

7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

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

Select Board Members Absent:

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Edith Stillson Ray Stapleton Michael A. Todd
Paul Tillman Darlene Kelly

1. Call to Order

Ms. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

2. Review minutes from previous meetings – 2/18/2019

Motion: Approve the minutes of February 18, 2019

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

3. Review Town Meeting

Mr. Arrison suggested not changing the order of the articles. Too many people left before the discussion came to the rest of the warrant.

Mr. Cole wondered if he should have limited the debate, but felt the subject was so important that it was better to allow people sufficient time to say what they needed to.

Mr. Morris thought using Roberts Rules and limiting people to two minutes with no repetition might have worked well, or perhaps some variation of that idea.

All agreed that there are no easy or definitive answers when the issue is of this level of importance.

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4. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager

5. Comments from Citizens on topics not on the agenda

There were no comments from citizens.

6. Award RFB (Request for Bid) Contract for the 1879 Schoolhouse ADA Ramp

A set of blueprints and a write-up of exactly what was wanted was put out to bid. There was a mandatory pre-bid meeting. Participants were given a week or two to submit questions – answers were distributed to all. Three bids were received:

- Upland Construction - \$66,678
- Cenate - \$56,728
- All Seasons - \$33,794

We have a grant for \$50,000 for this project. The 1879 Schoolhouse Committee and Mr. Morris recommended awarding the bid to All Seasons Construction for \$33,794.

Mr. Morris asked that the bid be awarded pending the sub-recipient grant agreement.

Once the ramp is completed, we should be able to get our full Certificate of Occupancy.

Motion: To award All Seasons Construction the contract for the construction of the ADA ramp at the 1879 schoolhouse for an amount not to exceed \$33,794 pending grant approval.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

7. Authorization to apply for the FY2020 Class II Paving Grant

Motion: To authorize the Town Manager to apply for the Class II Paving Grant for the purposes of resurfacing Center Road.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

8. Sand Pile Discussion

This was a continuation of a discussion that started at the last meeting.

Mr. Stapleton said the worst instance was when a load of sand was dropped off at the town office on a Wednesday and it was gone by Friday afternoon. The amount consumed was enough to do half of a plow route. People from Windsor and New Hampshire have been seen taking sand from this pile.

He feels that townspeople should have sand in the winter, but there is no way to regulate who takes it. He said other towns are more stringent about their sand piles. Springfield has

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jersey barriers around the pile with a path that allows people to walk the 20-25 feet to the pile with buckets.

Seven 14-yard loads have been dropped at the town office this winter. Six loads have gone to the transfer station (one of which may have been used to sand the transfer station lot). People from West Windsor and Reading have been getting sand from this pile. Approximately 9-10 loads have been used at the highway garage.

Most towns do not have sand piles in multiple locations like Weathersfield.

Mr. Stapleton would like to put up signs saying “public sand” or “for Weathersfield residents only”. Mr. Leach felt fines should be instituted. Mr. Arrison felt at a minimum signs should be put up and they should say residents only.

Jersey barriers were felt to get in the way of unloading the sand and would have to be transported to and from the garage.

Paul Tillman said he uses his truck to bring sand to the homes of several family members. Mike Todd said he uses his truck to bring sand to 13 families, all of whom are in Weathersfield. He is paid to sand those driveways, but he doesn't charge for the sand. He also uses the sand for his own 1/4-mile driveway.

There was discussion on what constitutes commercial use. The consensus was that if the person spreading the sand is being paid to do so, then it's a commercial operation and shouldn't be using the pile.

Motion: To authorize Mr. Stapleton to have signs made for all of the sand piles (with duplicates in case of mishap) to say “sand for Weathersfield residents only and non-commercial use”.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

9. FY2019 Budget Update

Town Finance Director, Darlene Kelly, reviewed the budgets of the general fund, highway, solid waste and the library to date. For the most part, everything looks good and on target. Town staff is still tightening their budget to find the funds to cover the shortfall on the 1879 loan. The funds are likely to come in small amounts from a variety of line items and not large amounts from one or two lines. Salt and tires are a bit over budget as can be expected given the winter this far, but there has been less workman's comp so projections are good. The fund balance can absorb any overages as it is designed to do. The solid waste budget is

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a bit different being an enterprise fund, but it is looking good thus far. Ms. Kelly will be looking into the incentives we have for punch ticket sales.

The final audit report will be presented to the board at the March 18th meeting.

10. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for March 4, 2019 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$38,688.12
	Payroll	\$14,433.97
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$25,333.73
	Payroll	\$11,829.13
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$4,730.40
	Payroll	\$1,511.11
Library	Operating Expenses	\$985.93
	Payroll	\$1,967.44
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Reserves		\$216.49
Long Term Debt		\$0.00
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$69,954.67
	Payroll	\$29,741.65

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Next meeting – 6PM March 7th at Martin Hall – annual reorganization meeting.

Ms. Murphy thanked Mr. Cole and Mr. Leach for their service on the board. Mr. Cole is retiring from the board after many years and will be missed. Mr. Leach is running for re-election.

11. Executive Session as per 1 VSA§313(3)(Town Manager Evaluation)

Motion: To enter executive session as per 1 VSA§313(3) for the purpose of discussing the Town Manager's evaluation.

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

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Vote: Unanimous in favor

The board entered executive session at 7:48 PM.

The board exited executive session at 9:18 PM.

Motion: To approve a compensation amount of \$75,948 for the town manager, effective July 1, 2019, pending general fund budget approval.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

12. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 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