

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Monday, October 4, 2021
6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Select Board Members Present: David Fuller
Kelly O'Brien
Paul Tillman
Michael Todd

Select Board Members Absent: Joseph Jarvis

Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager

Others Present:

Barb Thomas	Alex Taft	Gail McKenzie	
Darrin Spaulding	Beth Hunton	Chauncie Tillman	
Derek Gurney	Shawn Brown	Nicole Gagnon	

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fuller called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Because all of the board members were participating in this meeting remotely, it was agreed to skip the pledge.

3. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager and Citizens on Topics not on the Agenda

Select Board: Mr. Fuller said Mr. Gulnick may have been exposed to the virus and was following proper protocol by staying home until he receives a negative COVID test. Other board members were participating remotely as a precaution.

Town Manager: Mr. Gulnick had no comment.

Citizens: Ms. Savage said the Board had received a letter from the Army Corps. Mr. Fuller asked that it be sent to the Manager.

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(Mike Todd joined the meeting at 6:40 PM)

4. Review minutes from previous meetings – 9/20/2021

Motion: To accept

Made by: Mr. Tillman **Second:** Mr. Todd

Town accountant Gail McKenzie said the minutes contained an error. The motion to transfer funds to the Parks and Recreation Committee reserve fund had the wrong amount. It was agreed to check the video of the motion to see if the amount was incorrectly stated or incorrectly recorded.

Motion: To table approval of the minutes of the September 20th meeting to the October 18th meeting.

Made by: Mr. Tillman **Second:** Ms. O'Brien

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Tillman (aye), Mr. Todd (aye), Ms. O'Brien (aye), Mr. Fuller (aye)

5. Town Manager Update – Mr. Gulnick said he will give his report at the next meeting.

6. Vote to Transfer \$50K from FY21 Highway Surplus to Highway Capital Maintenance & Improvements

In accordance with a request made by Town Treasurer Steve Hier at the previous meeting, the board made the following motion:

Motion: To transfer \$50,000 from the highway fund surplus dated 6/30/2021 to the highway capital maintenance and improvement reserve account

Made by: Mr. Todd **Second:** Ms. O'Brien

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Tillman (aye), Mr. Todd (aye), Ms. O'Brien (aye), Mr. Fuller (aye)

7. Budget Advisory Committee Orientation

Mr. Gulnick said the budget advisory committee is Barb Thomas; Chancie Tillman, Nicole Gagnon, Natalia, and Everett Bingham. These members were appointed by the select board this year. The committee has met and re-organized, appointing Mr. Bingham as the chair; Ms. Thomas as vice-chair; and Ms. Tillman as clerk. According to the policy adopted by the select board, an orientation meeting is needed at this meeting. The purpose of the orientation is to provide introductions; review and define the role of the board, the committee and the town manager; discuss the town's goals and needs; describe the budget process and a general timetable.

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There was a bit of discussion about the number of times the committee would meet over the course of the budget discussion season. Additional talking points included starting the discussion about health care as soon as possible; learning how the employees feel about their current healthcare coverage; and the starting point of the budget.

8. AVFD Tanker Discussion

The AVFD would like to purchase a tanker truck to replace the 27-year-old current one. They are proposing a 2,500-gal tanker at a cost of \$360,000. According to Chief Spaulding the current truck has had multiple costly repairs recently with more coming soon. He has searched for used trucks within driving distance of Town. He predicts the old truck may sell for \$8,000. He said they could remove several items from the current truck (e.g., the light bar) which could be installed on the new truck saving close to \$10,000. He predicted the life expectancy of the new truck would be 25-30 years. At 2,500 gallons, it would double the current water-carrying capacity. It is also the only size truck that will fit in the available space in the station. Chief Spaulding said he had no objection to purchasing a used truck, but the good ones go fast and if one does not have the cash on hand at the time one becomes available, it is easy to lose out.

9. Parks and Recreation Policy & Procedures

Ms. Savage was able to find the 2002 Parks and Recreation Policy. Mr. Gulnick asked the board to consider some minor changes to it, namely:

- Allowing flexibility on setting meeting dates and times;
- Changing the role of the Town Treasurer to the Town Accountant;
- Authorizing expenditures in alignment with the Town purchasing policy rather than requiring select board approval of all expenditures (a change the treasurer agrees with);
- Aligning the policy and the bylaws in terms of the number of members allowed to be on the committee.

The board agreed to not limiting the number of people that can serve on the committee.

This will be considered the first reading of the policy.

10. Martin Memorial Hall Repairs

The insurance claim was denied because the damages are not covered in the policy. No contractors responded to the invitation to provide an estimate to repair the floor, although an estimate will be available by the next meeting. Mr. Gulnick has received an estimate on the repair of the walls.

The source of funding for this work was unclear. The board decided to wait until it has all the estimates before deciding how to pay for them. There was also concern about making these repairs before knowing what is causing the damage.

11. Proposed Future Agenda Items

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- 2nd reading of the Parks and Recreation Committee policy
- Discussion on MVP and Blue Cross healthcare coverage
- Fire truck

12. Appointments

No appointments were requested or made.

13. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for 10/4/2021 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$19,389.10
	Payroll	\$15,885.86
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$7,833.68
	Payroll	\$6,665.29
Solid Waste Management Fund	Operating Expenses	\$203.37
	Payroll	\$1,536.67
Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
	Payroll	\$1,997.25
Highway Grant	Operating Expenses	\$7,371.20
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$34,797.35
	Payroll	\$26,085.07

Made by: Mr. Tillman **Second:** Mr. Todd

Mr. Fuller said he had some questions on a couple of issues on the warrant regarding payroll, but said he will take them up as an agenda item at the next meeting

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Tillman (aye), Mr. Todd (aye), Ms. O'Brien (aye), Mr. Fuller (aye)

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business for the board to discuss.

15. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Tillman **Second:** Ms. O'Brien

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Tillman (aye), Mr. Todd (aye), Ms. O'Brien (aye), Mr. Fuller (aye)

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,
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WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

David Fuller, Chairperson

Joseph Jarvis, Selector

Kelly O'Brien, Clerk

Paul Tillman, Selector

Michael Todd, Vice- Chairperson