

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Tuesday, July 11, 2023
6:30 PM
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Select Board Members Absent: Wendy Smith

Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager

Others Present:

Olivia Savage		
Lisa Slade		

1 Call to Order

Mr. Todd called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Tillman led the pledge of allegiance.

3 Town Manager Update

a. Preliminary Year-End Finance Report

There is still movement in FY23. The auditors will finish their report and may request changes, invoices from vendors may trickle in, although the Town Manager captured as many as he could. General Fund Revenues are at 98%, and at \$23,000 less than anticipated. General Fund Expenses are at 97% or \$51,000 less than anticipated. The net revenue/expenses in the General Fund is at a net positive of \$28,540.

The Highway Fund revenues are at 102% or \$18,700 more than anticipated, due to higher amounts paid by the state than expected. Expenses are at 98% or \$20,000 less than anticipated. Net revenue/expenses in the Highway Fund are a positive \$39,591. The Solid Waste revenues are at 108% or \$22,000 more than expected. Solid Waste expenses are at 116% or \$26,000 more than anticipated. Solid Waste revenue/expense are at a net negative \$26,000. Permit stickers ended the year were they should have.

b. Site Examination

The Select Board will examine the premises on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 6:30pm to become familiar with Highway #95 prior to the public hearing. The site examination will be held at 381 E. Cooks Pond Road, Weathersfield, VT 05156.

c. Storm Update

Upper falls road has been measured, photographed, and repaired. The road has reopened. The Town will be submitting the expenses to Vermont Emergency Management for reimbursement. Upper Falls Bridge has been inspected and deemed safe for travel. The riprap did its job, but most of it has washed away, and needs to be replaced. It's well documented and photographed and will be submitted for reimbursement to Vermont Emergency Management.

The Ascutney Basin Bridge will need to be replaced. The Town received a grant last year for engineering/design. This work has been completed as of 7/7/23. The Town is awaiting permitting, but will be submitting this to Vermont Emergency Management as well. Ascutney Basin Road has damage on both sides of the bridge, and is currently being repaired.

Little Ascutney Road continues to be closed. When it dries out, the Highway Department will regrade it. The damage is not significant enough on Little Ascutney Road to request reimbursement. For questions and concerns, contact the Town Office at (802) 674-2626.

4 Set FY24 Property Tax Rate

Motion: To set the FY24 Property Tax Rates as the following: General Fund .3809, County Tax .0076, General Fund Special Article at .0003, Highway Fund FY23 at .2755, Local Education FY24 Tax at .0083, Fire Department Special Article at .0017, for a total municipal tax rate of .6843.

Made by: Mr. Fuller

Second: Ms. O'Brien

Vote: All in favor

5 Set FY24 Property Tax Due Dates

Motion: To set the quarterly tax payment due dates as August 16, 2023, November 15, 2023, February 15, 2024, and May 15, 2024.

Made by: Mr. Tillman

Second: Mr. Fuller

Vote: All in favor

6 Set Transfer Station Rates

Motion: To set the FY24 Permit Sticker Fee to \$50.

Made by: Mr. Tillman

Second: Mr. Fuller

Vote: All in favor

Motion: To set the FY24 Punch Ticket Fee to \$4.25 per punch.

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

Vote: All in favor

7 Any Other Business

Mr. Fuller stated that the communication for the online parts of meetings needs to improve or not done online at all. There is an expectation when the meeting is warned that participants can participate online and there have been times when they can't. The Select Board discussed at length if dual meetings were necessary, the kinds of trouble there has been with meetings, and how the online portions need to not the warning, not offering it at all, or writing a disclaimer on the warning.

The Select Board discussed the impact of the storm throughout Weathersfield and the state at large. Mr. Todd suggested discussing grants in the future for affected areas. Mr. Fuller stated that for residents having field issues, to reach out to Farm Service Agency 802-295-7942. The Select Board discussed the possibility of federal disaster funds.

Lisa Slade requested that the Martin Memorial Hall Trustees be put on the August 21st agenda and the Select Board concurred.

8 Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Fuller

Vote: All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nichole Gagnon

WEATHERSFIELD SELECT BOARD

Michael Todd, Chairperson

Paul Tillman, Vice-Chairperson

Wendy Smith, Selector

David Fuller, Selector

Kelly O'Brien, Clerk

