

**TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT**

**SELECT BOARD**

**Select Board  
Martin Memorial Hall  
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT  
Monday, May 18, 2020  
7:00 PM  
REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES  
APPROVED 6/1/2020**

**Select Board Members Present:** David Fuller  
Joseph Jarvis  
Paul Tillman  
Michael Todd

**Select Board Members Absent:** N. John Arrison

**Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager**

Others Present:

Matthew Priestly	Annmarie Christensen*		
Jim Toher	Darlene Kelly*		

\*Participated in the meeting via GoTo Meeting

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

This meeting was closed to the public in accordance with the orders of the Governor and the CDC guidelines. Public participation was facilitated via the GoTo Meeting video-conferencing platform and conference calling. The number for people to join or call in to the meeting was published on the meeting agenda and on the Town's website. Mr. Gulnick monitored the calls and the video-platform while Mr. Fuller ran the meeting. The meeting was recorded for SAPA TV.

Mr. Fuller thanked both fire departments for their assistance during and after the storm that swept through Town on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. The strong winds resulted in many downed trees resulting in much property damage. No road damage and no injuries were reported.

**2. Review minutes from previous meetings – 5/4/2020** – The minutes were not in the Board's meeting packet, so this item was tabled to the first meeting in June.

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

Mr. Tillman thanked everyone who had helped out during the storm.

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There were no other comments.

**4. Selectboard Comments from Information Regarding COVID-19**

At the last Selectboard meeting, Mr. Fuller had asked Board members to reach out to people to gauge how they were faring during the pandemic. Mr. Tillman and Mr. Jarvis said the people they talked with expressed weariness with the quarantine and masks and an eagerness to move on. There is concern for the welfare of children in daycare centers and schools should they re-open soon. Mr. Todd said he concentrated on being informed of activities at the State level. Mr. Fuller said he had spoken with two former Board members and a local business owner who urged the Board to be cautious in Town financial matters. Budget shortfalls are expected everywhere.

**5. Representative Annmarie Christensen – Dissolution of Perkinsville Village (Update)**

With regard to COVID-19, Representative Christensen said education expenses must be paid. However, there is a bill in the legislature that, if passed, would have the state pick up any interest payments if the Town needs to borrow money to pay to school expenses.

The bill to dissolve the Perkinsville village corporation passed the House unanimously. It went on to the Senate and then COVID hit and so has stalled. It will go before the full senate next week. It is expected to pass. Neither the Town nor Perkinsville have a charter, so the request to dissolve the corporation didn't need to go to the legislature. The votes are basically pro forma.

Even though the incorporated village of Perkinsville will be dissolved, Perkinsville will remain a designated village center.

Mr. Fuller asked for the Board's consent to move item #11 of the agenda to this point in the meeting as representatives of both bids were present.

**Motion:** To move item #11 to this point in the meeting

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

**Vote:** All in favor

Mr. Gulnick stated the bids had been opened on Thursday (May 14<sup>th</sup>) in the Town Clerk's office. Two bids had been received – Casella, and Alva Waste. Mr. Gulnick presented to the Board a chart showing the price comparison of each bidder based on 250 tons of zero-sort/single stream recyclables and 52 pulls per year. FY21 projections for Casella were \$49,246 to Alva's \$41,130. FY22 projections were \$51,120 for Casella and \$41,130 for Alva.

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Each bidder was given an opportunity to present their bid to the Board and to answer questions from the Board. When the discussion and questioning were concluded, Mr. Fuller called for a motion.

**Motion:** To award the bid to Alva Waste Services for a 1-year term (for FY21) with an option to renew for a second year (FY 22) at a cost quoted in the bid proposal of May 13, 2020.

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

**Vote:** All in favor

**6. Financial Report from the Town**

Mr. Gulnick reported that the Town billed \$7,592,940.75 for the total tax year. As of May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Town had taken in \$287,771.10 less than what was billed.

There is just under \$500,000 owed to the Town.

The need to be cautious financially was repeated.

**7. Consider a vote to establish a Tax Anticipation Note Line of Credit with Peoples United Bank in the amount of \$270,000**

Town Treasurer, Steve Hier, asked the Board to consider borrowing \$500,000 in anticipation of taxes to cover cash flow needs. He recommended borrowing this amount from the Town's reserve funds, to be paid back with interest.

The Board decided to table a decision on this matter to the next meeting in hopes of having additional information from the Listers (how many properties they need to assess and how much time they will need to firm up the Grand List).

**8. Consider a vote to request extension to August 15 for filing the abstract Grand List this year**

This was tabled to the next meeting.

**9. Town Manager Report**

The target date for re-opening the Town Office is July 6<sup>th</sup>. Multiple ideas for safety precautions are being discussed and implemented in anticipation of that date.

The Land Use Office is addressing multiple complaints regarding people building without permits.

**10. Website Update**

The redesigned website is live but is still under construction. Because most of the work is being done by Town staff, the Town has only spent \$1900 on it. It should be fully operational by the end of June.

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**11. Solid Waste Bid Opening**

(See above.)

**12. Consider a vote to approve the Highway Representative Description**

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Board decided to pass all four of the re-written descriptions.

**Motion:** To pass all four position descriptions (Highway, Economic Development, Public Affairs, and Solid Waste representatives) as presented

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

**Vote:** All in favor

**13. Consider a vote to approve the Economic Development Representative Description**

(See #12 above.)

**14. Consider a vote to approve Public Affairs Representative Description**

(See #12 above.)

**15. Consider a vote to approve Solid Waste Representative Description**

(See #12 above.)

**16. Appointments**

No appointments were requested or made.

**17. Approve Warrants**

**Motion:** To approve the warrants for 5/18/2020 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$31,896.02
	Payroll	\$14,218.99
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$11,216.28
	Payroll	\$8,485.21
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$5,670.58
	Payroll	\$1,440.27
Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
	Payroll	\$1,799.54
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$0.00

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Special Revenue	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Reserves		\$0.00
Long Term Debt		\$0.00
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$48,782.88
	Payroll	\$25,944.01

**Made by:** Mr. Todd      **Second:** Mr. Jarvis  
**Vote:** All in favor

**18. Any Other Business**

Hodgdon's Salvage Yard permit expires this month. The Board agreed to grant an extension as it has done in previous years.

**Motion:** To authorize an extension of the Hodgdon Brothers Salvage Yard permit for up to 90 days due to COVID-19 circumstances

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

**Vote:** All in favor

Mr. Fuller asked the Board to recognize that Mr. Gulnick is working too much and to bear that in mind before asking for something. "Too many things going on right now."

**19. Adjourn**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting

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

**Vote:** All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*deForest Bearse*

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N. John Arrison, Selector

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David Fuller, Chairperson

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Joseph Jarvis, Clerk

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Paul Tillman

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Michael Todd, Vice- Chairperson