

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board

Martin Memorial Hall

5259 Route 5, Ascutney, Vermont

Monday, June 6, 2016

7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

APPROVED 6/20/2016

Select Board Members Present: C. Peter Cole
Lynn Esty
Kelly Murphy (arrived at 7:17 PM)

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Barbara Flinn	Colin Butler	Roy Mark	Brenda Richardson
Edith Stillson	Heather Shand	Patti Arrison	Westley Hazeltine
Mark Girard	Darrin Spaulding	Stephen Wright	
Shawn Brown	Michelle Eglintine	John Cassidy	
Michael Barrup	Mychael Spaulding	Ben Waters	

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Esty called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. As Ms. Murphy had not yet arrived, there was no quorum. Mrs. Esty and Mr. Cole agreed to move forward with those items on the agenda that would not require a vote, until a quorum was obtained.

2. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager

There were no comments from the Select Board or the Town Manager.

3. Comments from Citizens on topics not on the agenda

Patti Arrison commended the Veterans Memorial Committee for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park and for all of the services that the Committee provides on Veterans Day and Memorial Day each year.

Presentation by UVM Geologist

Weathersfield Conservation Commission member Heather Shand introduced UVM geologist Stephen Wright who will be working together with several UVM students in town this summer mapping surficial materials. They will create maps that will identify potential groundwater sources, groundwater recharge areas, depth to bedrock, locally unique geologic features, and areas of potentially unstable slopes. The maps will be presented to the Town. The team will need access to some private properties and Mr. Wright asked for assistance in getting the word out about their project. The work should

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conclude in July with the final maps ready by next May. Mr. Wright will personally present his findings to the Board.

(Ms. Murphy arrived at this point.)

4. Review minutes from previous meetings – May 16, 2016

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. None.

Motion: To approve the minutes of May 16, 2016 as written.

Made by: Mr. Cole **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

5. Presentation by UVM geologist (See above)

6. Update on Historic Records – Patti Arrison

Mrs. Arrison said she has been returning the vital records she finds to the Town Clerk. She is also returning tax records to the Clerk for destruction. Mrs. Arrison asked for guidance from the Board on how to proceed with the deeds. Some of the deeds indicate that they have been recorded in the land records, but it has not been confirmed that they in fact have been recorded. It will require 40 hours of Mrs. Arrison's time to confirm that all 200 deeds have been recorded. The board agreed that Mrs. Arrison should do some spot checks of various deeds to see if they are in the land records. If she finds that they have been recorded, then the Board felt comfortable not checking all of them. However if it turns out that many of them have not been recorded, Mrs. Arrison and the board will have to re-evaluate the matter.

7. Request for Large Group Gathering Permit – Wellwood Orchard Inc.

Motion: To approve the large group gathering permit for the Strawberry Festival for June 25, 2016 and to waive the fee.

Made by: Mr. Cole **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Discussion: This is a first time event for the Orchard so it is hard to predict how many people will attend. The police chief knows about it.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The board agreed that Mr. Mark should only have to apply for large group gathering permits for the Strawberry Festival and the Customer Appreciation Day and that perhaps these could both be done at one time annually. All other activities at the Orchard are to be deemed regular business activities.

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Motion: To waive the large group gathering permit for Wellwood Orchard until revisited by the Selectboard, except for large festival gatherings (such as the Strawberry festival and Customer Appreciation Days).

Made by: Mr. Cole **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Mr. Mark will return at a later date to obtain a permit for Customer Appreciation Day.

8. Request for Municipal Fireworks Display Permit – Mark Girard

Ms. Murphy stated that she was abstaining from voting on this application. Without Ms. Murphy's vote, any motion made would fail. The board agreed to table this discussion until the June 20th meeting.

9. Cascade Falls Fence and Class IV Road Agreement

Mr. Morris has crafted an agreement that both parties have signed, but Mr. Morris said it must be approved by the board. Since Mrs. Esty would not be voting on the matter, any motion made would fail. It was agreed to table the vote until the June 20th meeting.

10. Set late penalty for homestead filing

Mr. Morris said he had gathered information from several towns regarding their practice in this matter. Two of the towns waive the fees, one town charges the full 8% allowed and the other waives the fee for the first year. Mr. Morris said that given the difficulty in discovering who the late filers are, he recommended waiving the fee for the next year.

Motion: To waive the late filing fee again for the 2016-2017 tax year.

Made by: Mr. Cole **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

11. Warrant for unregistered dogs

The board received a list of 81 unlicensed dogs. Under state statute, this list is given by the select board to the town constable for impound and destruction of these dogs. The language for the warrant is very specific and was not included in the packet. The board chose to postpone voting on it until the exact statutory language was available.

12. Approve Roadside Mowing RFP

The RFP was not included in the packet. Mr. Hazeltine said it is the same RFP the Town uses every year for this task. However there was confusion about whether or not the Town should require workman's compensation insurance or not. At the time of the summer mowing RFP, the insurance was mandated, and the winning bidder actually withdrew his bid because of the requirement. The legislation has apparently changed and now it is no longer required. As it appeared that any motion made on this matter

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would fail (Ms. Murphy wanted to require it, Mr. Cole did not), it was agreed to table it to the June 20th motion.

13. Maple Street Loan in Anticipation of Grant Monies

Motion: To sign the grant anticipation note for the Maple Street Project in the amount of \$742,691.

Made by: Mr. Cole **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Mr. Hazeltine said the project is progressing very well. Paving will begin tomorrow (June 7th) if the weather allows.

(Return to) Warrant for unregistered dogs

Motion: That the Board of Selectmen approve the following warrant:

To the Constable of the Town of Weathersfield: By the authority of the state of Vermont, you are hereby commanded forthwith to impound and destroy in a humane way all dogs and wolf hybrids not duly licensed according to law.

Given under our hands at Weathersfield aforesaid, this 6th day of June 2016.

Made by: Mr. Cole **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

14. Discussion on John Wood Report

Mr. Woods' report states that the current situation is not ideal and that all parties should strive to improve it. Mr. Morris said he wants the board to take time to discuss this as a board, keep it on the agenda and gather public input during the summer "road show", and give the fire chiefs time to discuss it with their members. He said he would then like to see the board start to implement the recommendations starting with a gathering of the fire chiefs and their command staff, two board members, the Town Manager, and the Fire Commission members. This discussion will continue at the June 20th meeting.

15. Discussion on Town-Endorsed Social Media

Ms. Murphy asked that this item be continued to June 20th so that Mr. Fuller could be present to participate.

16. Appointments

Motion: To appoint Lynn Esty and Dan Boyer as Fence Viewers.

Made by: Mr. Cole **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

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Mrs. Esty read a letter from the Town Manager of Woodstock regarding Mr. Morris's thank you letter. Mr. Swanson said it was the first such letter that their board had ever received from another select board, and they deeply appreciated it.

17. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for June 6, 2016 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$42,024.79
	Payroll	\$18,690.26
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$12,048.65
	Payroll	\$11,673.19
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$3,741.10
	Payroll	\$1,629.90
Library	Operating Expenses	\$1,931.95
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$13,317.24
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$1,052.77
Reserves		\$269.00
Grand Totals:	Operating Expenses	\$74,385.50
	Payroll	\$31,993.35

Made by: Mr. Cole **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

18. Future Meeting Agenda Items

19. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Cole **Second:** Ms. Murphy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

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Daniel E. Boyer, Chairperson

C. Peter Cole, Selector

David T. Fuller, Selector

Lynn Esty, Selector

Kelly Murphy