

**TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT  
SELECT BOARD**

**Select Board  
Ascutney Fire Station  
540 Route 131, Ascutney, Vermont  
Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 7:00 PM  
REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES  
APPROVED 7/5/2016**

**Select Board Members Present:** Daniel Boyer  
C. Peter Cole  
Lynn Esty  
Kelly Murphy

Ed Morris, Town Manager

**Others Present:**

Amy Beth Main	Mychael Spaulding	Tracy Dauphin	Colin Butler
Ron Main	Mark Girard	Josh Dauphin	Steve Hier
Ross Girard	Darrin Spaulding	Westley Hazeltine	John Arrison

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Boyer called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

**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**

Darrin Spaulding said the Town will be getting a bill from the City of Claremont for the water used during the Yankee Village Motel fire.

**4. Review minutes from previous meetings**

**May 4, 2016**

**Additions/corrections/deletions:** None.

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of May 4<sup>th</sup> as written.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty **Second:** Ms. Murphy

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**June 6, 2016**

**Additions/corrections/deletions:** None.

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of June 6<sup>th</sup> as written.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty **Second:** Ms. Murphy

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

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**June 13, 2016**

**Additions/corrections/deletions:** None.

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of June 13<sup>th</sup> as written.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty   **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Vote:** Esty, Cole and Murphy voted in favor; Boyer abstained. Motion carries.

**5. Request for Municipal Fireworks Display Permit – Mark Girard**

Mark Girard applied for a Municipal Fireworks display permit for a fireworks display by Northstar Fireworks on July 3, 2016 at 167 Thrasher Road. The Board received copies of the application form, a Certificate of Insurance, an aerial photo showing the field where the display will be launched, and emails from Barbara Flinn (resident of Country Estates Mobile Home Park), Police Chief William Daniels, and Ascutney Fire Chief Darrin Spaulding. Mrs. Flinn sustained damage to her car from the fireworks two years in a row and had great difficulty getting compensated for the repairs. Chief Daniels asked for (a) proof of how the applicant plans to handle incidents that have arisen in the past; (b) letters to be mailed to residents near the site informing them of the details of the fireworks display; and (c) the Fire Warden to cancel the display at his discretion for weather conditions. Chief Spaulding had no issues with the proposal.

**Motion:** To approve the application for a Municipal Fireworks Display Permit for a Northstar fireworks display on July 3, 2016 at 9:15 PM at 167 Thrasher Road (no rain date).

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty   **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Discussion on the motion:** It was pointed out that the company issuing the insurance policy is not licensed in the State of Vermont. No one present could explain why this was so or what affect it might have on filing claims.

Mark Girard said that the new display site is more than ½ mile from the previous sites, making it more than 1000 feet from the mobile home park. He said there would be a minimum 280 shell size with a maximum height of 300 feet. He said he has spoken with Mrs. Flinn and some of the neighbors and will speak to many more if the permit is approved. He said the setbacks are triple what they are required to be. The area of the display will be wet down before the event and a private fire truck will be on hand to address any spot fires that may occur. The field will be hayed two weeks before the event to allow it time to green up.

Mr. Boyer and Mrs. Esty expressed deep reservations about approving the application given the problems that have occurred in the previous two years. The board agreed to the following conditions of approval (to be added to the motion to approve):

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- Debris from the event shall be cleaned up following the event in the mobile home park and surrounding area. Mr. Girard shall determine if any damages have occurred as a result of the event.
- This approval shall be a trial. If there are any more valid complaints following this event, there will be no further fireworks display permits issued.
- Mr. Girard is to inform any landowners in the area housing farm animals of the event to ensure the animals are secure before the event occurs.
- The Fire Chief is to cancel the event if the fire danger is high or if weather conditions require it.
- It shall be ensured that the insurance certificate submitted is a valid insurance policy.

**Vote on the motion:** Cole, Boyer and Esty voted in favor (with reservations) of the motion; Murphy abstained due to her position in the Ascutney Fire Department. Motion carries.

**6. Authorize Steve Hier under direction of the Town Manager to sign the check for Police Cruiser**

**Motion:** To authorize Steve Hier to sign the check for the police cruiser to be purchased and delivered after July 1 prior to the expenditure appearing on the warrant.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Ms. Murphy

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**7. Approve loan in anticipation of Taxes/Steve Hier, Treasurer**

**Motion:** To establish a Tax Anticipation Note Line of Credit with Peoples United Bank in the amount of \$290,000, only to be drawn upon as needed through the year with borrowed funds to be repaid when cash flow is positive.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**8. Reserve Account Discussion**

Mr. Morris stated that the Town's rainy day fund and various reserve accounts are woefully underfunded and urged the Board to think about refunding each of them. He recommended that any budget surpluses at the end of this fiscal year be reclassified to the rainy day fund. Mr. Morris pointed out that it was the Town's reserve funds that allowed the Town to recover from Irene damages much faster than many other towns. He also pointed out that the lack of such reserves caused the town to have to borrow money to pay for the contaminated well and the new heating system for the highway garage. Mr. Morris said he is crafting a policy and guidelines for the spending of funds from the rainy day fund. Spending of funds from reserve accounts must be in accord with the original purpose of the fund as established by the voters.

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**9. Authorize Town Manager to purchase thank you gift for Dave Fuller**

**Motion:** To authorize the Town Manager to spend up to \$250 on a gift for Dave Fuller as a thank you for his many years of service to the Town of Weathersfield.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**10. Planning Commission recommendation for Land Use Planner position**

**Motion:** To accept the Planning Commission recommendation to hire Hal Wilkins for the position of Land Use Planner.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**11. Authorization to spend remaining highway budget to repair Amsden Schoolhouse Road**

**Motion:** To use up to \$50,000 of surplus highway funds to shim and topcoat Amsden Schoolhouse Road.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**12. Approval of Crown Point Country Club large group gathering permit**

The Crown Point Country Club is hosting a fireworks display on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Most of the activities have been permitted through the town of Springfield. However part of the club lies in Weathersfield.

**Motion:** To approve the large gathering permit for the Crown Point Country Club fireworks event on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and to waive the fee.

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**13. Approve the USDA Feral Hog monitoring in Town Forest**

**Motion:** To approve the USDA placing game cameras in the Town Forest for the purpose of monitoring feral hogs.

**Made by:** Mr. Cole    **Second:** Mrs. Esty

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**14. Approve roadside mowing RFP**

**Motion:** To approve the Request for Bids for Roadside Mowing

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Discussion on the motion:** Workman's Compensation must either be provided by the bidder or the bidder must complete the *Checklist of Independent Contractor Documentation* (provided by VLCT).

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

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**15. Approve the sale of the Highway Department 2006 Ford pickup and 2000 Mack dump truck**

**Motion:** To authorize the sale of the 2006 F-350 for no less than \$5,500 and the Mack for no less than \$8000.

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

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**16. Discussion and public comment concerning John Wood report**

Mrs. Esty asked the fire chiefs if their members had discussed the report. Mr. Spaulding said it would be discussed at the July meeting; Mr. Dauphin said his members had had some discussion at their last meeting.

Mr. Morris asked the board to authorize his putting together a group to discuss the options laid out in the Wood report and to authorize use of a neutral, third party facilitator to facilitate the discussion. He is currently researching facilitators to get a cost estimate.

Ms. Murphy asked for a legal opinion of the town's current liability and then a comparison of the liability under the various options offered in the Wood report. Mr. Morris said PACIF will do that evaluation for us in about a month.

Mr. Dauphin said no more money should be spent on this and urged the board to use care in handling this matter.

**17. Vacation Policy – First Reading**

Mr. Morris said that most of the employees were in agreement with the proposed policy. He asked the board to grant him some discretion during the transition period.

Ms. Murphy said she did not approve of withholding vacation time when an employee fails to give two weeks' notice before leaving or when an employee has been terminated. Mrs. Esty agreed.

The matter was tabled to the next meeting.

**18. Budget Update**

According to Mr. Butler's report, the Town is doing a bit better than planned. There should be a \$30,000 surplus in the general fund and a \$70,00 surplus in the highway fund. The solid waste fund will be \$25,000 in the red.

**19. Appointments**

**a. Fire Commission – Bruce Van Houten**

**Motion:** To appoint Bruce Van Houten to the Weathersfield Fire Commission.

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**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

Mr. Morris would like Mr. Van Houten to be in the facilitated group discussion of the Wood report/recommendations.

**20. Approve Warrants**

**Motion:** To approve the warrants for June 20, 2016 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$73,416.70
	Payroll	\$12,706.22
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$25,551.38
	Payroll	\$8,818.27
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$11,120.45
	Payroll	\$1,105.16
Library	Operating Expenses	\$2,192.77
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$380,341.32
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$945.00
Reserves		\$0.00
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$493,567.62
	Payroll	\$22,629.65

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Mr. Cole

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**21. Future Meeting Agenda Items**

**22. Adjourn**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting

**Made by:** Mrs. Esty    **Second:** Ms. Murphy

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*deForest Bearse*

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Daniel E. Boyer, Chairperson

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C. Peter Cole, Selector

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Kelly Murphy, Selector

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Lynn Esty, Selector