

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board

Martin Memorial Hall

5259 Route 5, Ascutney, Vermont

Tuesday, July 5, 2016 7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

APPROVED 7/18/2016

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

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Amy Beth Main	Bonnie Butler	Westley Hazeltine	Dave Fuller
Michael Todd	Brenda Richardson	Bette Jo Esty	
Richard Butler	Edith Stillson	Colin Butler	

1. Call to Order

Mr. Boyer called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

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

Mike Todd recommended Amy Beth Main to fill Dave Fuller's vacated Select Board seat. He said she would do an excellent job.

4. Review minutes from previous meeting(s) – June 20, 2016

Motion: To accept the minutes of the June 20th meeting.

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

Corrections: Change “private fire company” to “private fire truck” on page 2; change “Vole” to “Cole” on page 3.

Vote on the minutes as corrected: unanimous in favor

5. Renew Land Use agreement between Rick and Bonnie Butler (and the Town)

Mr. Boyer explained that the agreement was to accommodate a much-needed drainage line to relieve ponding on the section of Stoughton Pond Road near the Butler property. All agreed that the arrangement was working well and agreed that the lease should be renewed..

Motion: To renew the 2011 Lease Agreement between the Town and Richard and Bonnie Butler for another five years.

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

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Vote: Unanimous in favor

6. Approve Large Group Gathering permit for Town-wide Festival

Mr. Morris said he had been approached by Chip Cobb with the idea of a Town-wide Festival to be held on the same day as the Veterans Memorial Committee's annual chicken barbecue. Mr. Morris has put together a committee of volunteers to brainstorm ideas and create the festival. They have met several times and plans are progressing well. Mr. Morris was pleased with the townspeople's willingness to help with the idea.

Motion: To approve the Large Gathering Permit for the Town of Weathersfield Town-Wide Festival to be held on September 24th, 2016.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Mr. Morris asked that a member of the Board represent the Board on the Festival committee. No one volunteered so the request was tabled to the next meeting.

7. Bottle Redemption Grant

a. Brenda Richardson, sponsored by the Perkinsville Community Church

Ms. Richardson, sponsored by the Perkinsville Church, asked for \$1000 from the bottle redemption fund to make walker and wheelchair pockets for the elderly and veterans at the VA Hospital.

Motion: To grant \$500 to Brenda Richardson to make walker and wheelchair pockets for the elderly and veterans.

Made by: Mrs. Esty

Discussion: Mr. Cole questioned the actual cost of each pocket as it was stated in Ms. Richardson's letter. Ms. Richardson said the cost varies depending on the type of fabric she purchases. Ms. Murphy said she would prefer to grant \$250 and to have the check made out to the Perkinsville Church, as Ms. Richardson is not a non-profit organization (as required by the policy for disbursement of the redemption funds). Ms. Murphy also asked that the pockets be distributed to local residents first. Mr. Cole asked for an accounting of how the funds were spent before any additional money is granted (to Ms. Richardson).

Second on Mrs. Esty's motion: Mr. Cole, with the request that the motion be amended to require an accounting of the funds and the check being made out to the Perkinsville Church.

Mrs. Esty agreed to the amendment, but asked that both names be on the check jointly.

Vote on the amended motion: Unanimous in favor

The Board took a moment to publicly recognize Dave Fuller for his many years of service to the Town. Mr. Boyer read a letter of thanks and presented a gift from the Board to Mr. Fuller who was present at the meeting to accept.

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8. Review and give support for Planning Commission letter of support for cell tower

AT & T is seeking approval to add 40 feet of tower height to the existing tower on Mt. Ascutney. The Town is asked for comment being an abutter to the tower site. The Planning Commission has no objections to the proposal, but has asked that the extension and antennas be painted a color other than white to reduce its visibility against the sky.

Motion: To agree with and submit a letter of support similar to the Planning Commission's letter.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

9. Tax resolution change – first reading

The Tax resolution stipulates how the Town resolves the matter of over- or under-payment of taxes when the amount is less than \$5.00.

Motion: To move to the 2nd reading

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

Discussion: Mr. Cole felt either additional clarification was needed in item #3 or that #2 and #3 should be combined.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

10. Fireworks policy update

There was a misunderstanding on what this discussion was to be about. Mrs. Esty said she just wanted to know if the Town had received any complaints about the fireworks display at the campground. Mr. Morris said there had not been any.

11. Transfer station discussion

Mr. Morris said the transfer station is losing money and has been for the past three years. He projected a \$25-27K shortfall due to shortage of revenue. He recommended increasing the price of the stickers and closing the Swap Shop. It is unclear what exactly is causing the shortfall as there are a number of factors at play including reduced punch ticket sales and increased costs from Windham Solid Waste.

12. Set 2016-2017 Solid Waste Fee

Based on the above discussion, the Board agreed to raise the price of the stickers, but refrained from closing the Swap Shop until more definitive data is available.

Motion: To increase the cost of the Transfer Station stickers to \$50 for Weathersfield residents and \$60 for West Windsor residents with the same percentage increase for Reading.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

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Mr. Hazeltine asked to put up a sign at the Swap Shop announcing that the Shop will be closed if it is not used properly. The Board agreed that was a good idea.

13. Set 2016-2017 Tax Rate

Motion: To set the

- General Fund tax rate at \$0.3210
- Highway Fund at \$0.2925
- County Tax at \$0.0086
- Local Agreement Tax at \$0.0061
- Homestead education at \$1.5853
- Non-residential education at \$1.5402
- Perkinsville village (calculated) at \$0.0393

(NOTE: The Town does not set the Perkinsville village tax or the education taxes)

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

14. Set 2016-2017 Property Tax Due Dates

Motion: To set the property tax due dates as August 17th, 2016; November 9th, 2016; February 8th, 2017 and May 10th, 2017.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

15. Vacation Policy – second reading

No one had any issues with the policy as it had been amended. The employees are accepting it. Mr. Morris asked that it be reviewed by Town Council and then brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

16. Fire Report Discussion

All agreed that an independent, professional facilitator will be appropriate and necessary to facilitate the meeting with the Board and the fire departments. Mr. Morris had spoken to one facilitator who charges \$500 for half a day plus mileage.

Motion: To direct the Town Manager to find a professional facilitator and report back to the Board with costs and a name.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Ms. Murphy asked for a statement of liability under our current arrangement to use as a baseline for comparison to the options proposed in Mr. Woods' report.

17. Town Manager Salary Discussion

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Mr. Morris said he had agreed to a salary of \$67,500, but his contract arrived saying \$65,000. He agreed to \$65,000 until July 1st at which time it would increase to \$70,000. It is in the budget for \$70,000. No action by the Board was necessary. Ms. Murphy asked that the contract be brought to the Board for corrections.

18. Executive Session/Personnel/Select Board appointment deliberation

(The Board agreed to remain in open session to discuss the matter as only one person had submitted their name for appointment to fill Dave Fuller's unexpired term.)

Amy Beth Main asked to be considered for the position.

Ms. Main said she would like to be appointed to the Board so as to serve her community while remaining close to home. She brings her experience of serving on the budget committee, the Town Manager search committee, the Library Director search committee (twice) and the Festival Committee. She was formerly employed in the healthcare finance field at Valley Regional Hospital. She has a broad range of interests in serving on the Board.

Mr. Cole expressed concern with her affiliation (through her husband) with the Ascutney Fire department, mainly because if the Board has to vote on a fire department issue, then there will be three members of the Board having to recuse, which would effectively cripple the Board. Ms. Main felt she could remain neutral if the situation arose.

The Board agreed that they could not appoint Ms. Main to the Board at this meeting as the matter was on the agenda for discussion only. Appointment will take place at the next meeting.

19. Appointments

No appointments were made.

20. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for July 5, 2016 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$57,963.50
	Payroll	\$12,631.87
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$809.83
	Payroll	\$8279.70
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$3,382.00
	Payroll	\$1,082.50

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Library	Operating Expenses	\$38.53
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$8,113.18
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$500.00
Reserves		\$0.00
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$70,807.04
	Payroll	\$21,994.07

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

Daniel E. Boyer, Chairperson

C. Peter Cole, Selector

Kelly Murphy, Selector

Lynn Esty, Selector