

SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Meeting
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney, Vermont
Monday, December 7, 2015
7:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES
APPROVED 12/21/2015

Select Board Members Present: N. John Arrison
Daniel Boyer
C. Peter Cole
Lynn Esty
David Fuller (Left meeting at 7:10 PM)

Jim Mullen, Town Manager

Others Present:

Bonnie DuPrey	FloAnn Dango	Marion Ballam	Tracey Dauphin
Charles Horton	Amy Beth Main	Cindy Osgood	Josh Dauphin
Julia Lloyd Wright	Edith Stillson	Mychael Spaulding	Colin Butler
Michael Barrup	Ernie Shand	Michael Todd	Michael Lewallen
Darrin Spaulding			

1. Call to Order

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

2. Comments from Select Board and Citizens on topics not on the agenda

Select Board

Mrs. Esty provided the Board with copies of the Ascutney Volunteer Fire Association (ASVA) annual income and expense report and the West Weathersfield Volunteer Fire Department's (WWVFD) ARGO Standard Operating Guidelines.

Citizens

Darrin Spaulding informed the Board that the AVFA would be receiving a free truck from TransCanada. The truck will be used for transporting members to trainings and for towing the hazmat trailer. All truck expenses will be paid for by AVFA.

3. Review minutes from previous meetings

a. November 12, 2015 – Select Board with Town Manager Search Committee

Additions/corrections/deletions: None.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting as written.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Mr. Fuller announced that he was formally withdrawing his application for the Town Manager's position. He also stated that he was deeply offended by the motion made at the November 12th meeting which forbade any candidate from participating in the selection and appointment of the new town manager. He then left the meeting citing the need to take care of farm business.

Mr. Arrison acknowledged that the motion was inappropriate, stating that no elected official can be prevented from voting on topics within their jurisdiction, and had since been rescinded by the Board.

b. November 16, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. Mrs. Esty said that Colin Butler, Michael Barrup, Heather Shand, and Missy Shand were present at the meeting.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 16th meeting as corrected.

Made by: Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mr. Cole

Vote: Unanimous in favor

c. November 19, 2015 – Special Meeting

Additions/corrections/deletions: None

Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 19th meeting as written.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

d. November 23, 2015 – Special Meeting

Additions/corrections/deletions: None

Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 23rd meeting as written.

Made by: Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mr. Cole

Vote: Unanimous in favor

4. Fire Services Evaluation

The Board and audience members participated in a conference telephone call with John Wood to clarify the goals of the evaluation. The term "coverage" is to refer to the types of responses; "equipment" will address the amount of equipment that is necessary for Weathersfield's geography and water supplies; "finances" will be judged in terms of Weathersfield's unique characteristics; NFPA standards and other nationally recognized standards will be used in Mr. Wood's analysis; and "analysis of calls" will mean "are there calls that can be handled differently?". Mr. Wood stated that he will need 100 hours to

do the job well, not the 50 hours that the Board was requesting. He plans to have a complete report done by March or April of 2016. He will make every effort to minimize inconvenience to the people he will need to interview.

Mr. Arrison stated that the Board will now have to find the extra money to pay for the increase as this is an unbudgeted expense.

5. FY2017 Budget Review (with Budget Committee)

a. Review draft FY2017 Municipal Tax Rate Computation

Mr. Mullen said that taxes will increase by 6.6% primarily because there are no fund balances to reduce it. This is assuming that all articles pass and that the Grand List will not increase.

b. Review draft FY17 General Fund Budget

i. Fire Services (with Fire Commission)

Josh Dauphin said that the WWVFD had requested \$30,000 for FY17 operating expenses. It has been cut to \$22,500. Mr. Dauphin said the requested figure has been justified in multiple reports throughout the year. He said the WWVFD has been receiving \$20,000/year for the past eight years and they are due for an increase. He said he wants to get on a regular schedule of replacing interior gear every three years. One set of gear costs \$2000. Part of the \$30,000 would be used to purchase gear.

AVFD had also requested \$30,000 and had also been cut to \$22,500. Mr. Spaulding said that the airpacs they use are good for about 15 years. The department's airpacs are now 15 years old, and need to be replaced.

Mike Todd, chair of the budget committee, asked if fire equipment/gear could be added to the long term debt schedule as a capital expense. Mr. Arrison suggested using the reserve fund that's already in place for this expense (except that it has no money in it).

ii. Town Clerk

Ms. Dango said there are three elections this year, but her budget is not substantially different from last year's.

iii. Library (with Library Trustees)

Mr. Shand said the Library budget has increased by 31% to cover the cost of insurance for the new library director. The library is adding an ADA compliant toilet and requesting \$1200 for a satellite facility at the Perkinsville School. The facility would be staffed by volunteers.

iv. Martin Memorial Hall

The Martin Hall budget is to be level funded.

c. Review draft FY17 Capital Replacement Plan and Long Term Debt Schedule

The 1879 Perkinsville School Committee voted not to include \$30,000 in this year's budget.

Mr. Dauphin again stated that WWVFD needs to replace their Engine 3. The Town Manager and the Budget Committee are asking that they wait until next year when the results of the fire services evaluation will be known and because the request to replace Engine 3 was defeated by the voters just last year. Mr. Dauphin said that the Town has a long-term debt schedule that should be adhered to; that altering it would risk double truck payments in future years; that the cost of trucks increases by 3-5% every year – the truck they requested last year at a cost of \$350,000 now costs \$375,000. He suggested that the Town pay for the truck with a 5-year loan instead of a 10-year bond.

Mrs. Esty said that the Fire Commission unanimously supports this request.

Motion: To include an article on the warrant for a new fire truck for WWVFD.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

d. Review draft FY17 Reserve Funds Budget

The Board agreed to increase the Fire Equipment reserve fund to \$7000 to help buy new gear.

6. Possible Articles to include on Warning for 2016 Town Meeting

a. Authorize borrowing to replace WWVFD Engine 3 (covered above)

b. Proposal for an article regarding energy conservation – JL Wright

Ms. Wright asked the Board to create a reserve fund for conservation projects and matching funds; and wants a long-range energy plan. Mr. Arrison said the Energy chapter of the Town Plan serves as the Town's long-range energy plan. The Board agreed to put an article on the warrant to create a reserve fund.

c. Request by WISE for an article to be included on Warning for a \$400 appropriation – J Mullen

Motion: To put an article on the warrant for \$400 for WISE.

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

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Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion: To put an article on the warrant for \$400 for ACoRN.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

7. Transfer Station free Electronic Waste Collection has recommenced

The Town is once again able to accept electronic waste at no charge. Those parties that paid to have their waste taken during the ban can be reimbursed, perhaps by giving them an equivalent amount of free trash disposal.

8. Rewrite of Large Gathering Permit Ordinance (Final Reading) (to be continued to 12/21/15)

Motion: To continue the final reading of the large gathering permit ordinance to 12/21/2015.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

9. Approve Business Deposit Account Certified Resolution

Mr. Golding has retired as the Town's Assistant Treasurer. Esther Allen is the new assistant. Ms. Allen must be added as a signer on Town accounts.

Motion: To adopt the Business Deposit Account Certified Resolution.

Made by: Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mr. Cole

Vote: Unanimous in favor

10. Request by Weathersfield Food Shelf for temporary support while awaiting use of Perkinsville School

Mr. Arrison said the Food Shelf has received a temporary CO and is able to move into the school, so this request has been withdrawn.

11. Appointments

There were no appointments.

12. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for December 7, 2015 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$228,999.56
	Payroll	\$18,698.36
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$16,091.01
	Payroll	\$12,318.72

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Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$6,222.08
	Payroll	\$1,679.54
Library	Operating Expenses	\$236.70
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$62.50
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$259.07
Reserves		\$2523.76
Grand Total	Payroll	\$32,696.62
	Operating Expenses	\$254,394.68

Made by: Mr. Boyer **Second:** Mrs. Esty
Vote: Unanimous in favor

13. Future Meeting Agenda Items

14. Executive Session: Personnel (Town Manager hiring process)

Motion: To enter executive session for personnel (Town Manager hiring process)

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

15. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: **Second:** **Vote:**

The meeting adjourned at

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

N. John Arrison, Chairperson

Daniel E. Boyer, Vice-Chairperson

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David T. Fuller, Selector

C. Peter Cole, Selector

Lynn Esty, Selector