

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

**Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Thursday, March 5, 2020
7:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES
APPROVED 3/16/2020**

Select Board Members Present: N. John Arrison
David Fuller
Joseph Jarvis
Paul Tillman
Michael Todd

Select Board Members Absent:

Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager

Others Present:

Edith Stillson	Lisa Slade		
Fred Kowalick			
Nikita Lenahan			

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gulnick called the meeting to order at 7:04PM and asked for a roll call.

2. Election of Chairperson

Mr. Gulnick asked for nominations for chairperson.

Mr. Tillman nominated Mr. Fuller. Mr. Arrison seconded the nomination.

Mr. Fuller asked if both of the new board members had been sworn in. They both said they had.

There were no other nominations. All were in favor of Mr. Fuller as chair of the board.

3. Election of Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Tillman nominated Mr. Todd for vice-chairperson. All were in favor of Mr. Todd as vice-chairperson of the board.

4. Election of Board Clerk

Mr. Arrison nominated Mr. Jarvis for board clerk.

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Mr. Jarvis nominated Mr. Tillman for board clerk.

After some discussion, Mr. Tillman removed himself from the nominations.

All voted in favor of Mr. Jarvis as clerk of the board.

5. Appointment of Recording Secretary

Mr. Todd nominated deForest Bearse for recording secretary. Mr. Tillman seconded the nomination and all were in favor.

Mr. Tillman asked if the board had back-up secretaries in case deForest is out and is that something the board would like. He said Mr. Gulnick had a letter from someone indicating that they would like to be a back-up if needed. Mr. Fuller said yes, if someone wanted an alternate secretary it would be ok with him.

Mr. Todd nominated Chauncy Tillman for alternate recording secretary. Mr. Fuller said Mrs. Tillman had done this in the past and confirmed with Mr. Gulnick that that was the letter he had. Mr. Tillman abstained from voting. All others were in favor.

6. Designate regular meeting dates, times, and location

Motion: To designate the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month at 7:00 PM at Martin Memorial Hall as the board's regular meeting dates, times and location.

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

Vote: All in favor

7. Appoint Selectboard Representative to Highway Committee

Mr. Arrison asked to continue as the board's representative. Mr. Todd said he was also interested in the position.

Mr. Jarvis nominated Mr. Arrison for board representative to the highway committee. There were no other nominations. Four members voted in favor; one member was opposed.

8. Review *Open Meeting Law*

Mr. Fuller cautioned board members about emails. There can be no discussions or decisions made out of the public view. Mr. Todd clarified how the law applies to emails among board members.

9. Review *Policy for Conduct of Meetings and Hearings*

Mr. Fuller said he expects people to behave. If they don't, it's a problem. He said the chair can unilaterally adjourn a meeting if needed. He can also limit speaker time at meetings.

10. Review *Ethics Policy*

Mr. Fuller again said he expects people to behave professionally. If a board member knows of/has an issue, he should bring it to the board chair; the chair will forward it to the manager for resolution. Individual members have no authority to act independently.

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Mr. Todd asked what happens if there is an issue with a fellow board member? Mr. Fuller said there is no direct remedy to poor behavior. The board can censor that member, but not much else. Voters have the ultimate authority. He reminded the board that they represent the town.

11. Review *Conflict of Interest Policy*

Mr. Fuller explained what conflict of interest means. He said the easiest method to address it is to step down or recuse from the matter in which the member has a conflict.

12. Future Meeting Agenda Items

a. March 16, 2020 7PM at Martin Hall

12.a.i. Selectboard/Town Manager Goals

12.a.i.A. Fire Agreements – Mr. Fuller wants to focus on what's right (about the fire services) rather than what's wrong. He does not want lawyers involved.

12.a.i.B. Meeting with Reading and West Windsor regarding the transfer station. Mr. Fuller said he would rather have a shorter list of goals and actually complete them.

12.a.ii. Liquor Licenses

Mr. Arrison reminded Mr. Gulnick about annual drivers' license checks.

Mr. Fuller asked about manager goals. Mr. Gulnick will be addressing our recycling contract with Casella, which is due to expire June 30th and the cost of which Casella says will double.

Mr. Fuller encourages board members to think about what they'd like to accomplish in the next year and bring their thoughts to the next board meeting.

13. Notice of Restricted Use of Town Highways

Motion: To approve the posting of roads under 19 VSA 1110

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

Mr. Arrison noted that the signs are already up.

Mr. Fuller asked to have the words "as needed" to the motion. He noted that the roads are to be posted March 8th to May 5th and some of them were done on March 3rd. He felt there should be some flexibility. He said he was not in favor of specifying the dates. People need to do business and conditions vary. Mr. Jarvis agreed.

Mr. Gulnick said Mr. Stapleton had asked to have the roads posted early. The limits can't be enforced if the roads aren't posted.

The board discussed changing the ordinance to include some flexibility, but ultimately decided to leave things as is for now.

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Vote on the motion: All in favor

14. Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for March 5, 2020 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$42,195.07
	Payroll	\$13,969.59
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$20,226.73
	Payroll	\$9,949.47
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$5,372.05
	Payroll	\$1,497.57
Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
	Payroll	\$1,810.38
Grants		\$457.21
Special Revenue		\$0.00
Reserves		\$0.00
Long Term Debt		\$0.00
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$68,251.06
	Payroll	\$27,227.01

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

Vote: All in favor

15. Any other business

Lisa Slade asked about the board's choice of the newspaper of record? It was an oversight and Mr. Fuller asked Mr. Gulnick to put it on the next agenda.

Mrs. Slade asked the board to look at the Town's complaint policy.

Mrs. Slade asked the board what happens when draft minutes don't get approved. She said the December 6th minutes weren't ever approved.

16. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting 7:46 PM

Made by: **Second:**

Vote: All in favor

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The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

N. John Arrison, Selector

David Fuller, Chairperson

Joseph Jarvis, Clerk

Paul Tillman, Selector

Michael Todd, Vice-Chairperson