

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

**Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascotney VT
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Select Board Members Present: N. John Arrison
David Fuller
Paul Tillman

Select Board Members Absent: Joseph Jarvis, Michael Todd

Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager

Others Present:

Josh Compo (online)			

Remote public participation was facilitated via the ZOOM video-conferencing. The link to the meeting was published on the meeting agenda and on the Town's website.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fuller called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. NOTE: Because there were only three Board members present, Chairman Fuller voted on every motion during the meeting.

2. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager and Citizens on Topics not on the Agenda

Mr. Fuller thanked Mr. Arrison for his many years of service on the Select Board. Mr. Arrison has been elected to the State Legislature as representative of Weathersfield and Cavendish. He will be serving on the education committee. Mr. Arrison will be missed.

Mr. Fuller urged residents to check the Town's websites for board/commission vacancies and to consider volunteering.

Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 27th at 12:30 PM via ZOOM. The annual school meeting will also be held virtually at 10AM on the same day. All voting will be by Australian ballot on March 2nd. There is some concern that moderator John Broker-Campbell may be unable to fulfill his duties on Town Meeting Day. According to Mr. Gulnick, the Select Board is authorized to choose a replacement. Mr. Gulnick will ask

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former moderator Peter Cole to fill in. Consensus of the Board was for Mr. Fuller to fill in if Mr. Cole is unable.

Mr. Fuller thanked the road crew for their hard work during the recent winter storms.

There was no public comment.

3. Review minutes from previous meetings – 2/1/2021

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. None

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 1st meeting

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

Vote: All in favor

4. Vote to Approve Highway Mileage Certificate (FY22)

There were no changes to the Town's highways from last year.

Motion: To approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage

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

Vote: All in favor

Mr. Arrison reminded the Board that it is getting time to authorize posting weight limits on the Town's roads for the spring.

Motion: To allow the highway superintendent to post roads as needed for this spring.

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

Vote: All in favor

5. January YTD Finance Report

Mr. Gulnick presented the newly re-formatted finance report. All department budgets are within normal/acceptable parameters. Two items of note:

- (1) Mr. Gulnick said if the highway budget continues on its present track, there will be another significant surplus by year end. Mr. Fuller asked Mr. Gulnick to work on that with Mr. Stapleton.
- (2) Utility budgets appear to be somewhat unrealistic (too low). However, with the new solar field soon to come on line, the Town will see a 10% reduction in electric costs and gain \$11,000 from the annual lease payment.

The Board liked the new format for the report, saying it provides a nice snapshot of everything financial from a variety of perspectives.

6. Updated FY22 Final Proposed Budget – All Departments

This budget represents the final budget including all changes made by the Board at previous meetings with the fund balance, the reserves and everything balanced.

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Mr. Fuller spoke to the reserve funds. He said it is important for people to know what funds in the reserves have been encumbered but not yet spent. He cited for example the fire nonmotorized equipment fund has about \$56,000 in it. However, the Board voted recently to disperse \$15,000 to each department to purchase gear. Mr. Gulnick said he has added a new column to the report that shows these encumbered funds.

7. Town Meeting Presentation

Mr. Gulnick ran through the slides for the Town Meeting presentation. He said he is still fine-tuning it. The Board suggested some minor changes, to which Mr. Gulnick agreed.

Mr. Arrison will present the highway budget. Mr. Tilman will present the solid waste budget.

The Board agreed to jump to item 10 on the agenda.

8. ATA Agreement Discussion

The ATA wants to partner with Town to develop mountain bike trails in the Town Forest and a connecting trail as part of the trail around the mountain. The Board had a draft cooperative agreement in their packet.

Mr. Fuller was reluctant to take any action on this without a full Board present.

Mr. Fuller said the Town Forest land is encumbered by the VT Land Trust and wondered if mountain biking would be allowed. He asked to postpone this discussion to when the full Board could be present.

9. Vote to Authorize the Town Manager to Sign Historic Preservation Grant

Acknowledgment

Motion: To allow the Town Manager to sign the Historic Preservation grant for an amount no less than \$15,312

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

Vote: All in favor

10. Vote to Approve VTRANS Letter to Conduct a Speed Limit Review on VT Rt 131

Mr. Gulnick wants to conduct a speed limit review on Rt.131. This requires a letter signed by the Select Board asking the State to initiate it. The letter has been drafted and was in the Board's meeting packet. Mr. Gulnick said that if the Board approved it, it could be sent to the State in the morning. The study would be in the vicinity between the old Stoughton Farm and Lavigne Road. The speed limit is currently 50 mph there. The request is to reduce it to 40 mph.

Motion: That we allow the Chair to sign the request to conduct a speed limit review on 131 as noted in the application

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

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Vote: All in favor

11. Set Public Hearing Date/Time: Zoning Bylaw Updates

Motion: To warn a public hearing on the Zoning Bylaw updates for March 15th at 6:30 at Martin Hall

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

Vote: All in favor

12. Consider a Vote to Approve Land Use Contracted Services

Mr. Fuller said there is money in the budget for contractual work outside the regular land use work. The \$5,000 is for the Land Use Administrator to digitize the Planning Commission records in the Town vault. The digitized records will help in title searches and will be made available on the Town's website.

Motion: To accept the proposal of the Land Use Administrator

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

Vote: All in favor

13. Board of Liquor Control Commissioners

Mr. Fuller convened the Board of Liquor Commissioners.

a. Abbott Brown, Inc – d/b/a Inn at Weathersfield

Motion: To approve the application from Abbott Brown d/b/a Inn at Weathersfield for a 1st class liquor license, outside consumption permit, and 3rd class license

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

Mr. Gulnick said there were no issues from the Police Chief.

Vote: All in favor.

b. Scott Rogers, LLC – d/b/a Ascutney Market

Motion: To approve the 2nd class liquor license for Scott Rogers d/b/a Ascutney Market

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

There were no issues from the Police Chief.

Vote: All in favor

c. Global Montello Group Corp. – d/b/a Jiffy Mart #466 (Ascutney)

Motion: To approve the 2nd class liquor license for Global Montello d/b/a Jiffy Mart #466

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

There were no issues from the Police Chief.

Vote: All in favor

Motion: To approve the 2nd class liquor license for Global Montello Group d/b/a Jiffy Mart at Downers 4 Corners #437

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

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There were no issues from the Police Chief.

Vote: All in favor

d. Fireside Beverage, LLC – d/b/a Running Bear Campground

Motion: To approve the 2nd class liquor license for Fireside Beverage LLC d/b/a

Running Bear Campground

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

There were no issues from the Police Chief

Vote: All in favor

e. JW Sandri Inc. – d/b/a Sandri #204 (Sunoco)

Motion: To approve the 2nd class liquor license for JW Sandri d/b/a Sandri #204

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

There were no issues from the Police Chief.

Vote: All in favor

Mr. Fuller closed the Board of Liquor Commissioners.

14. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for 2/16/2021 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$21,287.98
	Payroll	\$13,562.66
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$19,518.29
	Payroll	\$10,251.33
Solid Waste Management Fund	Operating Expenses	\$5,402.50
	Payroll	\$1,493.66
Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
	Payroll	\$1,937.70
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$
Special Revenue	Operating Expenses	\$
MES		\$11,750.00 (from Fire Equipment Reserves)
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$57,958.77
	Payroll	\$27,245.35

Made by: JA **Second:** PT

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Mr. Arrison asked the Board to note that at times the Highway Foreman is paid less than his crew. Mr. Arrison didn't think that was fair.

Vote: All in favor

15. Any Other Business

16. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

N. John Arrison, Selector

David Fuller, Chairperson

Joseph Jarvis, Clerk

Paul Tillman

Michael Todd, Vice- Chairperson