

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascotney VT
Monday, August 5, 2019
6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Select Board Members Present: N. John Arrison (arrived at 6:55 PM)
Daniel Boyer
David Fuller (arrived at 6:50 PM)
Kelly Murphy
Michael Todd

Select Board Members Absent:

Ed Morris, Town Manager

Others Present:

Edith Stillson	Joan Barton	Harry Temple	Fred Kowalik
Patrick Adrian	Annmarie Christensen	Angela Cioffi	Nikita Lenahan
Carol Sylvia	Julia Lloyd Wright	Paul Cioffi	Paul Tillman
J. Compo	Dottie Richardson	Dennis Richardson	Sven Fedorow
Ray Stapleton	Mychael Spaulding	Josh Dauphin	Tracy Dauphin
Ben Waters	Jordyn Bagalio	Darren Spaulding	Cheryl Watson
Richard Watson	Darlene Kelly		

1. Call to Order

Ms. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

2. Executive Session

Motion: To enter executive session as per 1 V.S.A. §313(3) Personnel

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

Vote: All in favor

At 7:00 PM, the Board came out of executive session.

Motion: To close the executive session.

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

Vote: All in favor

No action was taken.

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At 7:06 PM, Ms. Murphy called the open session to order.

3. Agenda Review- 7:00 PM

There were no changes made to the agenda.

4. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager

There were no comments from the board or the manager.

5. Comments from Citizens on topics not on the agenda

There were no comments from citizens.

6. Review minutes from previous meetings –

a. 7/9/2019

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. None

Motion: To approve

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

Vote: All in favor

b. 7/15/2019

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. None

Motion: To approve

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

Vote: 1 abstention, 4 in favor

c. 7/30/2019

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. None

Motion: To approve

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

Vote: All in favor

7. Discuss Dissolution of Perkinsville Village

Residents and Trustees of the Village of Perkinsville would like to dissolve their village corporation. At their last annual meeting, they agreed to approach the board to see if they would be willing to do so. They ask in return that the Town pay to keep the street lights on in the Village (approximate annual cost of \$2500), that the residents of the Village be kept informed of things going on in the Village (perhaps through an informal Village improvement group), and that their remaining funds be donated to the 1879 Schoolhouse restoration

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account. The residents would like to preserve their identity as a village, but would like to do away with the formalities required by being incorporated.

Motion: The Selectboard accept the terms proposed by the Village of Perkinsville that the Town will budget annually to pay the cost of keeping the streetlights on in the Village of Perkinsville, place any excess funds from the Village of Perkinsville in the 1879 Schoolhouse Capital Reserve, to do its best to keep the Village apprised of any major issues involving the Village, and to authorize the Town Manager to work with the Village of Perkinsville to complete the dissolution process.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

8. Town Solar Project Update

Troy (?) of Norwich Solar was present to bring the board up to date on the status of the applications for a solar array at the transfer station and the highway garage. The consultants' reports that have been filed with both applications were provided to the Board.

DEC is recommending a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) on the transfer station site. This has to be filed by the Town, but Norwich Solar would pay the expense. The Town would be liable for any mitigation that the assessment might reveal. Mr. Morris recommended that the town move forward with it despite the risks.

The application for the highway garage site is moving forward well. It seems to have met all of the requirements.

Lease agreements are still pending final approval. Norwich Solar would like the leases to be finalized before moving forward with the ESA.

The applications are 400 pages long. Ms. Murphy asked who would be responsible for reviewing all 400 pages to make sure there won't be any surprises.

Fred Kowalik expressed anger and frustration because he had been promised by the board and Norwich Solar that he would be kept informed and yet the application is dated June 25, 2019 and he is seeing it now for the first time. He disagreed with the report that stated there is no evidence of black bear on the site, when he has seen many black bears there. He had asked that the site be brush hogged so he could see it more clearly, but that has not been done. He felt the town was not working with him as he felt it had promised to do.

Troy apologized and said he thought the application had already been mailed by certified mail to all of the parties. However, Mr. Morris said the town had not received a copy yet,

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either. Then Troy said the application was being held up by Green Mountain Power feasibility study and couldn't be distributed until Green Mountain Power released it. He did not know how long it would be before that happens.

Paul Tillman, member of the Planning Commission, said the Commission had been looking for the applications, too. He agreed with Mr. Kowalik that black bears are present at the site. He said the Commission is looking for a timeline for this process and project.

This discussion will be continued.

9. Discuss Assessor Position

The listers have approached the manager to discuss changing from a town with elected listers to a town with an appointed assessor. One of the listers would like to retire, one will be moving out of Town and it is getting hard to find people willing to run for the positions.

Mr. Morris suggested combining zoning, planning and assessing into a single position in a Land Use Office.

The Planning Commission voted in favor of moving forward with the discussion.

Such a move would require two votes from the town – one to create the assessor position and the second to combine the offices.

It was agreed to give the idea more time to develop and to let the townspeople know about it before they are asked to vote on it.

10. Fire Discussion

a. Review Fire Communication Meeting

Mr. Morris provided minutes from the July 16th meeting with the two fire departments. Darren Spaulding said he thought the meetings are going well. Josh Dauphin said these meetings have taken on the role of what they were doing with the Fire Commission. There have been three meetings so far. Mr. Morris said they are covering issues that the Fire Commission would cover, but perhaps more efficiently as they are done in an hour. Hose testing has been completed and four joint trainings have been scheduled. They are now getting into broader discussions on equipment and levels of service. Mr. Morris feels they have been productive meetings.

b. Continued Discussion on the Future of the Town Fire Departments

Mr. Murphy asked each member what their thoughts were on where we are and where we're going from here with regard to fire services. She said she, herself, is not sure how to move forward.

Mr. Todd said he would like to continue with what's happening currently and see where it takes us.

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Mr. Fuller said the idea of designating a single fire station as the Town's fire department while contracting with the other will fracture the town, especially with dispatch. He maintains that the two departments have to come together before we can have a single department.

Mr. Boyer was in favor of appointing one department as the municipal department and working out something with the other. He said they are just talking about the same things over and over; we need to do something.

Mr. Arrison asked for call sheets from both departments for the past year to verify claims that there have been multiple calls with no response. That would be an impetus for the Board to move if that's true. He also wants verification of firefighters' certifications from both departments. He wants to see this wrapped up in March.

Mr. Fuller wanted to know what the calls were for as well as who showed up.

Ms. Murphy asked Mr. Dauphin to share his response to the idea that West Weathersfield is looking to become the municipal department simply because they favor that model and have offered their assets to it. Mr. Dauphin said they are not looking to have the board appoint WWVFD as the municipal department. They have asked the board to create a single municipal department where everyone can join. They have pledged to give their assets to that department.

Mychael Spaulding said the board is just kicking the can down the road – that issues brought up before are continuing to get worse. Ms. Murphy said any safety or protocol issues must be addressed in the meetings with the manager. She did not agree that that was kicking the can down the road.

Mr. Dauphin said there are two issues in particular that need to be addressed – children responding to calls and equipment being run by a single occupant.

There ensued discussion about authority or lack thereof to enforce policies. Is it the responsibility of the Town through insurance or that of the Chiefs asserting authority over their departments?

The discussion will continue.

11. Discuss Highway Position

The highway department had been trying to get by with one less person following Ryan's departure in May. However, it is not working well. Mr. Stapleton and Mr. Morris have decided to re-post the position and hire a replacement. The new position will not be as a mechanic,

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but rather someone with mechanical abilities. There is money on the budget for the position. This will bring the total highway staff to seven.

No action from board was needed.

12. Paving Project Review

Paving on Center and Reservoir Roads is nearly complete. It appears that the projects will come in under budget, though the final figures are not yet available.

Striping will be done before the end of October.

13. Approve Use of Reserves for Crack Sealing

Crack sealing could substantially increase the lifespan of our paved roads if done at the proper time. It costs \$4000 a day. Two days' worth could allow us to seal Airport Road, Amsden School Road, High Street, Jenness Road, Maple Street, Reservoir Road, and Schoolhouse Road.

\$7800 was budgeted for a roller for the new grader we're not getting. Mr. Stapleton will not be looking to get a roller fabricated to fit our current grader. It was suggested that the \$7800 be redirected to pay for the crack sealing instead.

Motion: To reallocate the \$7800 from the purchase of the grader roller to be used to purchase two days of crack sealing.

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

Vote: All in favor

Motion: To extend the meeting to 9:17

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

Vote: All in favor

14. Approve Salt Shed Grant

The current salt shed is having issues. There are grants available for purchasing new salt sheds. The estimated cost of replacing our shed is \$300,000. With a 20% match, we would need to budget \$50,000 - \$60,000, some of which could be met in-kind. The grants would give us time to budget for the match.

Motion: To authorize the Town Manager to apply for grants up to \$300,000 that have a 20% local match for the purposes of purchasing and installing a new salt shed at the Highway Department.

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

Vote: All in favor

15. Approve Gravel RFB

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Motion: Award the FY2020 gravel bid to Cersosimo for \$16.00 delivered and \$12.50 FOB

Made by: Mr. Fuller ,; Mr. Todd

Vote: All in favor

16. Review Documents and Discuss Possible Town Manager Search

Things are still in negotiation. This item was tabled to the next meeting.

17. Discuss Town Hall Security

Mr. Morris said there have been three threats to personnel at the Town Office in the last month. He is working with Chief Daniels to put together a plan. The estimated cost is \$10,000 - \$20,000 to make needed upgrades. Mr. Morris asked the board to authorize his moving forward with the RFP process.

Motion: To approve the Town Manager moving forward with security for the Town Office.

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

Vote: All in favor

18. Budget Update

It appears there is \$68,000 surplus in the General Fund. Detailed worksheets will be available at the next meeting.

Motion: To extend the meeting to 9:23 PM.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

19. Appointments

a. Veterans Memorial Committee

deForest Bearse, Ernie and Cookie Shand

Motion: To appoint deForest Bearse, Ernie and Cookie Shand to the Veterans Memorial Committee

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

20. Approve Warrants

Motion: To approve the warrants for 8/5/2019 as follow:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$29,883.25
	Payroll	\$14,945.63
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$7,882.84
	Payroll	\$8,546.81

Solid Waste Management Fund

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	Operating Expenses	\$4,818.79
	Payroll	\$1,638.05
Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
	Payroll	\$2,082.30
Grants	Operating Expenses	\$2,687.13
Agency Monies	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Reserves		\$0.00
Long Term Debt		\$0.00
Grand Totals	Operating Expenses	\$45,272.01
	Payroll	\$27,212.79

Made by: Mr. Arrison **Second:** Mr. Boyer
Vote: All in favor

Motion: To approve warrant #2 for highway fund operating expenses \$1495.00
Made by: Mr. Todd **Second:** Mr. Fuller
Vote: Unanimous in fav

21. Future Meeting Agenda Items

22. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting
Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. Todd
Vote: All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

N. John Arrison, Selector

Daniel E. Boyer, Selector

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David Fuller, Vice-Chairperson

Kelly Murphy, Chairperson

Michael Todd, Clerk

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