

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING
Draft Minutes

Select Board Members Present: Kelly O'Brien, August Murray, Wendy Smith, David Fuller

Select Board Members Absent: Michael Todd

Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager (remote)

Others Present:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Olivia Savage | | |
| Ray Stapleton (remote) | | |
| DeForest Bearse (remote) | | |
| Ryan Gumbart (remote) | | |

1 Call to Order

Mr. Fuller called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Fuller led the pledge of allegiance.

3 Agenda Review

The Select Board will set the date for the Select Board Organizational Meeting under Item 12: Any Other Business.

4 Comments from SB, TM, and Citizens on Topics not on the Agenda

The Highway Superintendent announced that the temporary bridge is open on Ascutney Basin Road.

Mr. Fuller attended the school board meeting and they are trying to navigate their way through their budget again and may postpone its voting until April. There is going to be an exorbitant property tax increase state wide.

Mr. Fuller announced that he will be a write in candidate for Moderator for the school and the Town.

5 Review Minutes from the Previous Meeting: 2/5/24

Additions/corrections/deletions: None.

Motion: To approve the 2/5/24 minutes.

Made by: Dr. Murray **Second:** Ms. Smith

Vote: All in favor

6 Town Meeting Presentation

The Town Manager presented the draft [Town Meeting Presentation](#).

The Select Board reviewed each slide, pointing out corrections that were needed, adding that the charts that were included were a nice addition and to be mindful of keeping the print big so all citizens can see it.

The Select Board agreed that a recap of the water district information should be shown, and that the temporary bridge, ARPA, and other projects should be highlighted for the residents. The Town Manager will compile a list of these items for the Select Board.

The Select Board discussed the Solid Waste budget and how this will be an area for review for FY24-25 and discussed the increasing cost of recycling.

7 Warn Public Hearing: Zoning Bylaw Amendments – Articles 2 & 7

The Land Use Administrator presented that the purpose of making the proposed amendments is to prohibit the use of land for Private Airstrips and Helipads in the Town of Weathersfield. The Select Board and Land Use Administrator discussed briefly the state and municipal requirements, and reviewed Articles 2 and 7.

The Select Board must warn a hearing (one or more) to take up the proposed amendment. Once the hearing has been warned and opened, the Select Board may make minor changes. If substantial changes are made in the concept, meaning, or extent of the proposed amendment, it shall warn a new public hearing. The bylaw amendment shall be adopted or rejected by a majority of the members of the legislative body at a meeting which is held after final public hearing. If adopted, the amendment shall be effective 21 days after adoption, unless petitioned for popular vote.

Motion: To warn a public hearing on March 18, 2024 at 6:30pm regarding Private Airstrips and Helipads, Article 2: Zoning Districts and District Standards and Article 7: Definitions, in the Zoning Bylaws.

Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Ms. Smith

Vote: All in Favor

The amendments and Reporting Form will be available for inspection at the Town Office.

8 Ascutney Basin Bridge – Request for Bids (RFB)

The Select Board was presented with a [Request for Bids](#) for the Ascutney Basin Bridge project (pages 11-15). The goal of this project is to remove the existing concrete bridge superstructure and replace it with a new one. The existing concrete superstructure is deteriorated, has been damaged by flooding, and can no longer safely carry current traffic loads. The existing substructure will be retained and reused. The project includes related site work, excavation, and paving.

The Select Board and Highway Superintendent discussed the reimbursement for this project from FEMA and how that process seems to be moving along fine as of now. Below is the bid calendar:

CALENDAR

- 9.1 Request for Bids posted February 21, 2024
- 9.2 Pre-Bid Conference on March 11, 2024, at 10am
- 9.3 Question Period ends on March 18, 2024, at 10am
- 9.4 Answers to questions, changes, notes & addenda emailed to plan holders no later than March 28, 2024, at 5pm.
- 9.5 Bids Due: April 30, 2024, at 11am
- 9.6 Public Bid Opening on April 30, 2024, at 1pm
- 9.7 Bid Review: May 6, 2024.
- 9.8 Contractor Notification: May 8, 2024

Motion: To approve the Request for Bids process for the Ascutney Basin Bridge Project, in accordance with the presentation and calendar presented.

Made by: Dr. Murray **Second:** Ms. O' Brien

Vote: All in Favor

9 Town Manager Update

a. Project Sponsorship

At the last meeting, the Select Board voted to sponsor the project at 7219 Route 106 and at that time, there was a 75%/25% cost share, with landowner having to pay 25% of the cost. The USDA is going to cover 100% of those costs and therefore the landowners don't have to pay.

b. Internet

The Town Manager has not signed the contract with Comcast and the Town is looking at other options to reduce the cost of internet services and improve internet speed and service.

c. 2024 Goals

The 2024 Town Manager and Select Board goals had not been set and is usually done at the second Select Board meeting in March. The Town Manager and the Select Board will start creating a list of goals.

d. Town Health Officer

The Town Manager will be stepping down as Health Officer as it has taken too much of his time and would like to announce the vacancy. He will continue to fill the position until the vacancy is filled.

Mr. Fuller recommended checking out TDS fiber for the highway garage. The Town will likely be under multiple contracts. The Select Board discussed the need for internet at the transfer station.

10 Appointments

There were no appointments, but the following are the vacancies.

- a. Budget Committee (5 Vacancies)
- b. Conservation Commission (1 Vacancy)
- c. Energy Coordinator (1 Vacancy)
- d. Green Up Coordinator (1 Vacancy)
- e. Lister (2 Vacancies)
- f. Parks and Recreation (1 Vacancy)
- g. Veterans Memorial Committee (2 Vacancies)
- h. Zoning Board of Adjustment (1 Vacancy)

Approve Warrant

To approve the warrants for 2/20/2024 as followed:

General Funds
 Operating Expenses: \$28,066.26
 Payroll: \$24,840.56

Library
 Payroll: \$3,543.69
 Operating Expenses: \$0

Highway Fund
 Operating Expenses: \$22,245.54
 Payroll: \$16,185.79

Reserve Fund (AVFD Tanker): \$147,341.00
 FEMA Fund (Temp Bridge) \$71,000.00
 Grant Fund: \$7,926.36

Solid Waste Management Fund
 Operating Expenses: \$655.29
 Payroll: \$2,861.03

Grand Totals:
 Operating Expenses: \$277,234.45
 Payroll: \$47,431.07

Made by: Ms. O'Brien
Vote: All in Favor

Second: Ms. Smith

11 Any Other Business

The next Select Board meeting will be on March 7, 2024 at 6:30pm for the board organization, for the newspaper of record, and possibly warrants.

There will be a Select Board meeting on March 18, 2024, which will include the Zoning Hearing first, followed by the Select Board’s regular business.

12 Future Agenda Items

Not Discussed.

13 Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Ms. Smith **Second:** Dr. Murray

Vote: All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nichole Gagnon

Annual School Meeting-Saturday, March 2, 10am at Weathersfield School
Annual Town Meeting-Saturday, March 2, 12:30pm at Weathersfield School
Australian Ballot Voting-Tuesday, March 5 at Martin Memorial Hall

WEATHERSFIELD SELECT BOARD

Michael Todd, Chairperson

August Murray, Selector

David Fuller, Vice-Chairperson

Wendy Smith, Selector

Kelly O’Brien, Clerk