

Selectboard Minutes

July 28, 2014

Present Larry Straus, Doon Hinderyckx, Robert Meagher, Terry Severy, Dan Gendron, Martha Slater

Called to Order 6:15 pm

Robert made motion to approve minutes of July 14th meeting. So voted.

Robert made motion to approve minutes of special Selectboard Meeting of July 8. So voted.

Discussion took place about water meter replacements. Terry will set-up a meeting with the Supplier to discuss options.

Discussion of possible rate increase for water and sewer. Terry will look at how we ended the last fiscal year and will analyze income and expenses in order to propose a possible rate increase.

Martha asked about a local beer maker and whether alcoholic samples could be served At Harvest Fair. Because of liability issues it might be better for the WRVP, who put on Harvest Fair, to request only an information display.

The draft of the lease agreement with the Vermont Telecommunications Authority was discussed. This agreement would allow for installation of a wi-fi and cellular hotspot on the side yard of the town office property. This facility would continue to provide coverage even during an extended power outage. Robert moved to accept lease and execute agreement. So voted and executed.

Board discussed a proposal to construct two (2) new benches for the park at \$230 per bench. So voted.

The discussion of late filing fees for homestead declarations was discussed. Doon moved to table discussion until next meeting. So voted.

Larry provided a draft of a warning to hold a Special Town Meeting on September 8, 2014 at 6:15 p.m. at the Town Office. One article of business was proposed to re-purpose the extra \$31,892 for emergency medical services generated by the reduction in the per capita charge from WRVA from \$98 to \$70. After discussion it was decided to leave \$10,000 in the EMS budget for support of the new First Responder group. The Article will seek approval for transfer of \$21,892 to the FY 2015 Highway Budget for the purpose of paving additional sections of Bethel Mtn. Road. Doon made motion to approve the warning. So voted and executed.

Dan Gendron spoke to the board about the replacement of the 2006 tandem truck. He has received bids from International, Mack and Western Star. Although the International bid is \$6,000 less than Western Star, the Western Star is available immediately and he has been unhappy with our International single axle repair history. Dan also proposed trading the single axle now, even though it is newer, and still under warranty. The trade-in values of the two trucks are exactly the same (58,000). After lengthy discussion, the board decided to trade the older 2006 Tandem that is no longer under warranty. Doon made motion to authorize the purchase of the Western Star for \$131,216 after trade in of the 2006 International. This price includes all extended warranties. So voted.

Dan discussed with the board permission to use weed killer sprayed around the bases of all guardrails. He received a license last year for applying these products. There is a prescribed notification process for adjacent landowners, who have the right to deny permission near their property. There are also restrictions on using these products near waterways. Dan offered to invite the Vermont AOT representative to explain more details at a future meeting.

Larry initiated a discussion of what to do with the Creamery Building behind the new Firehouse, and the old Firehouse. Each building has its own set of decisions on what should be done. Should the Town keep or tear down the Creamery; should the Town keep and make repairs to the old Firehouse or sell it and use the funds to reduce the mortgage on the new Firehouse. Discussion will continue at future meetings. Doon and Robert want to hold off with tearing down the creamery for now.

The Board reviewed the draft of the conservation easement from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board on the two Lillard buyout properties, located on north end of village. This easement is required as part of the agreement when the Town took title to the properties. Right now there is a thirty day notice period in effect for the public to review the restrictions. Larry requested that he be authorized to execute the documents at the expiration of the notice period. Robert moved to authorize Larry to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. So voted.

Doon informed the Board that he had been contacted by Ben Falk looking for properties in Town that could be evaluated by students at his workshop for elements of permaculture design. Larry suggested looking at the Graham-Frock property. Doon will forward idea to Ben Falk.

The Board reviewed the draft of a letter from the Tri-Town EMS Committee that is working to improve and enhance the services provided by WRVA. They recently met with Linda Minsinger from Gifford Hospital. The hospital is interested in supporting the efforts of the three towns with developing our rapid response squads and other projects. The hospital requested a letter from the three boards formally requesting their help. Robert moved that we adopt the letter and forward to Hancock and Granville for their action. So voted and executed.

The Board reviewed a driveway permit for Sue Moulton on North Hollow Road. Doon moved to approve permit. So voted and executed

The Board voted to grant permission for Green Mountain Power to relocate guywires on the pole in the NE corner of the Park.

Warrants signed.

Doon moved motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. So voted.