

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2013

Present: Jim Ameden, Steve Prouty, Paul Gordon, Peter Pagnucco, Bob Cowles, Kevin Beattie, Duane Hart, Kelly Pajala, GNAT TV, Jim Wilbur, Esther Fishman, Colleen Gometz, Joel Kuhlberg, Bob Wells, Butch Jelly, Dan Flanagan, Sharon Crossman.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. A motion was made and passed to go into executive session at 7:03 to discuss employee hiring. Dan Flanagan and Esther Fishman were included in the executive session.

Came out of executive session at 7:25.

Announcements- We didn't receive the grant applied for to revamp the town's website. We will proceed with work on the website without it.

Paul recognized Duane and Josh for a good job on Mtn. Lake Road.

Pay orders were signed.

Butch Jelley- Platt HMGP projects. Butch attended the meeting to express his concern about the proposed Platt HMGP projects. Butch's property is adjacent to the Platt property and the buildings are very close together. He is concerned that the construction could compromise his foundation, and waterflows during flood times could be changed to adversely affect him. It's not clear where the actual property line is.

The selectboard has not yet voted to support the projects.

Skip Coburn- There is a lack of records in the Town Office for a doublewide mobile home that is on the Coburn property, and no one can produce a bill of sale. The mobile home is in foreclosure. The town has no authority to stop the foreclosure or removal of the mobile home from the property.

Walking paths/sidewalks- Joel Kuhlberg of the Planning Commission and Bob Wells were present to discuss pedestrian walkways in the north village and to determine if the selectboard is interested in looking into feasibility. A group had met with Matt Mann of Windham Regional Commission and discussed possibilities of a sidewalk on the north side of Route 11, the south side, or a river walk pathway along the West River. Grant money could be available to do a feasibility study.

Bob Cowles reminded the board of the last effort for sidewalks that occurred 10-15 years ago. The town had received a grant for construction, and eventually cancelled the project and returned the grant money due to opposition to the project. Bob suggests that, before much effort is spent looking into it, all business owners along that section of road be approached to gauge their level of support.

Route 11 retaining wall mural- Sharon discussed the idea of doing a mural on the retaining wall near the Shoe Barn. The Rotary Club had planned on doing this project but has dropped it. There is another local group of citizens who would like to do a mural working with Flood Brook students. The selectboard would like to see and approve any designs.

Park Board items- Kelly reported that the board is almost halfway to their fundraising goal of \$25,000. Some work will be starting in Pingree Park this fall. There is a need for more pressure treated 6X6 timbers.

Buxton Park- Colleen has been doing a lot of work cleaning up. The Parks Board asked the selectboard to approve installing two stone benches similar to the ones recently installed by the Garden Club in Williams Park. Cost of the benches installed is \$400 apiece. The board has plans to do some plantings along the chain link fence and would like to purchase some blueberry plants. They proposed using funds from the Buxton Park fund for these items. The selectboard approved expenditure of approximately \$950 for these two items. The Parks Board also asked if the road crew could put some gravel in the parking/pulloff area. Duane will take care of this.

Minutes of the September 23th meeting were approved and signed.

Roads and bridges-

The **F-550** is at Stewart's for repairs.

We are approaching the total budget amount for gravel.

The **culvert inventory** is in progress.

Electronic timecard program- Windham Regional Commission has offered a good spreadsheet program to track time and materials by task and location. Duane and Kevin are working on getting it set up for Londonderry's use.

Driveway policy- A policy on driveway accesses and associated maintenance was adopted by unanimous vote.

Liquid chloride- Duane wants to go to liquid chloride. He will work some numbers on the costs.

Transfer Station-

We have a job application for the fill in position. Kevin will have him meet with the selectboard at the October 21 meeting at 6:30.

Old business-

Williams Park/Brownfields Program- The ground penetrating radar study was completed and detected some metal in the vicinity of where the gas station was located. It isn't likely that the detected metal is an underground tank. The board elected not to do further investigation.

Prouty land blowdowns- Mark Wright has offered to clean up the blowdowns.

New business-

Cobble Ridge bridge/CDBG funding- There might be a funding opportunity to replace this bridge, which is very undersized for the location. A motion was made and unanimously passed to look further into the opportunity.

Town of Vernon request- With the closing of Vermont Yankee, Vernon is interested in looking at budgets of towns of similar size in the area. In return, we could get useful information back. The board agreed to participate.

Paydata agreement- The board signed the agreement for payroll services with Paydata.

The **Chester Telegraph** has requested the selectboard agenda prior to meetings. By statute, we must provide a copy to the media if requested.

Traffic on Thompsonburg Road- Bob Wells has a concern about the speed of traffic on the road. Lacking a speed limit ordinance in town, the board and Duane will look to see if anything can be done.

Front Porch Forum- This is a good community bulletin board available at no cost. Kelly will look into setting it up.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.