

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 18, 2013

Present: Steve Prouty, Paul Gordon, Peter Pagnucco, Bob Cowles, Kevin Beattie, Duane Hart, Kelly Pajala, GNAT TV, Sharon Crossman, Kathy Mosenthal, Pat Powden, Garrison Buxton, Debbie O'Leary, Colleen Gometz, Jim Wilbur, Paul Dexter.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Announcements-** Paul Gordon spoke of attending a workshop on records and open meeting laws. Paul feels we are doing well on complying with open meeting laws.

**Pay orders** were signed.

**Zoning administrator-** There was discussion of enforcement of the zoning bylaws. The selectboard has received some complaints about unequal enforcement on the part of the town. Paul Dexter explained some history of enforcement while he has been administrator and several examples were discussed. Paul also feels that there is room in his budget to step up enforcement if need be.

The selectboard agrees that there should be improved communication in writing to Paul when complaints are received.

**SeVEDS (Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies)-** Pat Powden attended to explain SeVEDS, and its purpose and activities regarding economic development and flood recovery in southeastern Vermont. She also delivered to the board a written request for an appropriation at Town Meeting in the amount of \$5300. This is based on \$3.00 per person according to the census population. Peter wondered if Londonderry would receive enough benefit from SeVEDS to justify the amount. Pat feels that the town would.

**Trustees of Public Funds-** Kathy Mosenthal gave the board a summary of the total town funds that the Trustees manage, and the annual disbursements. There are total funds of \$5,300,000. The funds are all restricted and the town can only use the income from them. The Trustees are currently reviewing all original gifts and documents to be sure that funds are being used as intended. There has been question as to whether the "Buxton" Fund can be used for Pingree Park and the Trustees are investigating that. Kathy would like to see increased communication between the Trustees and the selectboard and will send out a notice of their quarterly meetings.

**Wall mural in the north village-** Garrison Buxton showed a design proposal. A motion was made to approve the design and proceed with the project, subject to approval by the state, and that there be no expenditure by the town. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Park Board items-** A \$22,000 grant has been awarded for the playground equipment. So far matching funds through donations are just under \$16,000. On December 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a ceremony in Montpelier to present grant awards.

Colleen expressed concern that the Parks Board doesn't get communication about some maintenance activities in Williams Park. The items in question are being undertaken by citizens without contact with the town.

Valentine's Day fundraiser dance- The Parks Board is planning on holding this event at Magic Mountain.

There was discussion of mowing in the parks, including the ballfields in Pingree Park, and how to account for the cost in next year's budget.

**Minutes of the November 4th meeting** were approved and signed.

**Town Officer's Potluck-** Sharon asked about setting a date for this annual event. No action was taken.

## **Roads and bridges-**

**Culvert inventory-** The field work for the culvert inventory project has been completed. Duane informed the board that he tallies a total of 616 culverts on all town roads.

**RFP for chloride-** Duane has put together an RFP for summer chloride that includes options of either purchasing or leasing the equipment needed to make switch to liquid chloride. He plans to send it to four companies. A motion was made and unanimously passed to send out the RFP as written.

## **Transfer Station-**

**Repairs to the backhoe-** Parts are ordered. Total cost is expected to be in the range of \$4000.

**Liquor Board-** An application for Duke Enterprises (Mill Tavern) was unanimously approved.

## **Old business-**

**Health insurance-** With the new healthcare exchange not working well, we have opportunity to enroll directly with BCBS. After discussing options, the board chose to proceed with enrolling directly with BCBS, and provide the coverage previously decided on, which is the new Platinum Plan plus an HRA account to fully cover the maximum out of pocket expenses. A motion was made and unanimously approved to proceed in that manner.

**Bi-weekly pay period-** A motion was made and unanimously passed to go to a bi-weekly pay period for town employees, starting January 1, 2014. The board reaffirmed the plan of going to an outside service for payroll services for 2014. That can be re-evaluated after trying the outside service for a year.

**New business-**

**Application for use of the Town Hall-** Steve Twitchell has applied to use the building on December 1, which is after the normal cutoff date for the year due to heating costs. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the use, subject to the Baptist Church being OK with it.

**Executive session-** A motion was made to go into executive session at 9:56 PM to discuss employee matters.

**Came out of executive session and meeting adjourned at 10:15.**