

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2013

Present: Jim Ameden, Steve Prouty, Paul Gordon, Peter Pagnucco, Kevin Beattie, Mike Bernhardt, Duane Hart, Kelly Pajala, GNAT TV, Debbie O'Leary, Colleen Gometz, Jim Wilbur, Sandra Clark, Marc Fontaine, Larry Daly

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

Retaining outside auditors- Mike Bernhardt solicited and received two proposals for auditing services which include quarterly and year end closings:

Graham and Graham - \$16,200 per year

Sullivan, Powers, and Co. - \$9000 per year.

Jim Wilbur is in favor of hiring an auditing company.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to retain Sullivan, Powers, and Co. for the above services for \$9000 per year.

Eliminating the town auditor positions- A motion was made and unanimously passed to put an article in the warning for the 2014 Town Meeting, to eliminate the town auditor positions.

Outside payroll services- It has been previously discussed for the town to go to an outside payroll service. Jim Wilbur spoke in favor of making the change. Mike mentioned that direct deposit would be an option for the employees.

A motion was made to go to an outside payroll service, and was unanimously approved.

Larry Daly was present with a letter of resignation effective October 1. He has worked part time at the Transfer Station for 27 years. The selectboard accepted the letter. Larry has some ideas that he would like to pass along when there is opportunity to discuss it.

Parks Board- Funding commitment- The Parks Board has asked the selectboard for a funding commitment for up to \$25,000 to be a match for grant applications. Ongoing fundraising is anticipated to reduce the amount of commitment needed from the town. They have raised \$5300 so far. Kelly asked the board to commit to putting the above request on the warning for the 2014 Town Meeting. The Parks Board can amend the number needed at Town Meeting time, according to fundraising success up to that point.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to put an article on the 2014 warning for up to \$25,000 for a funding match for Londonderry Parks.

Kelly reported on the status of Pingree Park projects.

Bottle money from the Transfer Station- Kelly mentioned that currently the parks don't get any of the bottle money, according to previous selectboard vote. It all currently goes to the Flood Brook Athletic Association. The selectboard will stick with that commitment through this year. There was discussion of how the bottle collection will be done with Larry retiring.

Lister items- Sandra Clark let the board know there were some "errors and omissions" Grand List and tax bill adjustments to be made, that needs selectboard approval. A motion was made and unanimously passed to make the adjustments.

Treasurer compensation- A motion was made and passed to go into executive session at 7:52 PM to discuss treasurer compensation with Jim Wilbur.

Came out of executive session at 8:00.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to set the treasurer hourly rate at \$30/hour. This is no change from the previous rate.

Pay warrants were signed.

Minutes of the August 19th meeting were approved and signed.

Roads and bridges-

Better Back Roads projects- A motion was made and unanimously passed to sign the Notice to Proceed letters and proceed with the projects

Lowell Lake Road box culvert project- We received three engineering proposals for the project:

Dufresne Group- \$9000

Bell Engineering- \$7000

Hammond Engineering- \$4800

A motion was made and unanimously passed to award the work to Hammond Engineering.

Road and Bridge Standards- Kevin explained that a paragraph regarding meeting ANR standards needs to be in the town road standards in order to receive full FEMA funding in the event of an Irene-like disaster. We can modify other parts of the standards, but it would reduce other project funding if we don't adopt them as written.

Steve expressed reservations about other parts of the state's standards, including guardrail and stonelining ditches requirements. He feels some of these standards should be changed in the future.

Kevin noted that he made one change in the proposed draft, increasing the finish gravel depth from 3” to 6”.

After discussion of pros and cons, a motion was made and unanimously passed to adopt the standards as presented to the board in draft form.

Cohen Road project- Duane solicited three quotes for the project and received two back:

Chaves Excavating- \$14,936.80

Hunter Excavating- \$16,800

Raymond Smith didn't submit a quote.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to award the job to Chaves Excavating for an amount not to exceed \$14,936.80. Duane and Kevin explained that the grant amount is for \$10,000 and the town will do a large portion of the difference between the grant amount and the project amount, so the amount actually paid to Chaves will be less than the quoted figure.

Hazardous waste management- Duane has made arrangements for a person from ANR to come to the town garage to assess and make recommendations regarding hazardous waste.

Steve complimented the road crew on their work on **Melendy Hill Road**.

Beavers on Mtn. Lake Road- Duane has met with Cory Cheevers of VT Fish and Wildlife. Cory provided a couple of recommendations for fencing or a grate to keep the beavers out of the culvert.

Transfer Station- During the week of Sept. 16th, the Transfer Station tractor will be repaired by Matt Coleman. The road crew backhoe will be available to be at the Transfer Station that week.

Backup person- With Larry Daly retiring, Steve Prouty offered to fill in as needed as a backup person. The selectboard accepted his offer and voted to have him serve that role.

Old business-

Platt Hazard Mitigation Grant Projects- At the request of Tom and Judy Platt, the selectboard previously agreed to submit applications for two HMGP projects on Platt properties. This was done in order to meet the application deadline. The selectboard has not yet agreed to support the projects until more detailed information is received. These projects would be FEMA funded projects managed by the town. The board agreed that they should be presented with more information about the projects before more commitment is made. Kevin will ask Tom Platt to come and inform the board further about the projects.

Employer healthcare discussion- The town must be ready to sign up as an employer in the Vermont Healthcare Exchange in October. The board discussed options and how to arrive at a decision on what to provide. After some discussion, the board moved on and plans to take it up again at the next meeting.

New business-

Upcoming abatement hearing- There is an upcoming tax abatement hearing for the Frog's Leap Inn. A motion was made and unanimously passed to have the town's attorney present at the hearing to clarify legal questions.

Health Officer appointment- The Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer are up for reappointment as of the end of September. The selectboard unanimously voted to recommend Steve Prouty as Health Officer and Roger Fox as Deputy Health Officer. The State of Vermont makes the actual appointments.

Town Hall roof- There is some slate repair needed. Kevin will contact Richard Slowe, who has done repairs in the past.

Budget discussion- The board did some preliminary discussion of some of the bigger items facing the town in upcoming years. One thing we need is a purchase schedule for town trucks and equipment. Duane will work on that.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.