

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2014

Present: Steve Prouty, Paul Gordon, Cathy Aragi, Bob Cowles, Kevin Beattie, Duane Hart, Kelly Pajala, GNAT TV, Jim Wilbur, Tom Buchanon

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

Additions and deletions to the agenda-

A motion was made and unanimously passed to add an Access Permit application by Donald Lyon.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to add a discussion of employee uniforms.

Pay orders- Pay orders were signed

Announcements and correspondence- Kevin passed around a copy of a letter by Paul Dexter to a property owner on Thompsonburg Road where a lot of excavating and material hauling is occurring.

Visitors and Concerned Citizens-

Treasurer items- Jim Wilbur proposed to the board that the town establish a service that would allow taxpayers and citizens making tax payments and other payments to the town, to make their payments by credit or debit card, or by electronic check. The service, called Express Pay by a company called Systems East, charges the payer rather than the Town the user fee of 2.85% for credit cards or a flat fee of \$2.50 for an electronic check. Payments can be made in person, by phone, or internet. Jim feels having this option available might help to reduce some of our tax delinquencies. Kelly agrees that it would be helpful. It would cost the Town a yearly fee of \$300 plus an initial setup fee of \$49.00.

It was agreed to look into it further. No action was taken at this meeting.

Schedule to set the tax rate- Jim and Kevin discussed with the board the steps and timeline needed for setting the municipal tax rate. It was agreed that the numbers would be ready for the Selectboard to set the rate at the July 21 meeting.

Windham Region Commissioner- Tom Buchanon came to remind the board that he plans to step down from the position in September. He had advised that when he accepted the reappointment earlier in the spring. At this time he has no suggested replacement prospects. We will put out a notice by website, email, and Front Porch Forum to look for a replacement.

Tom also asked the board to provide comments on the proposed Regional Plan update.

Minutes of the June 2 meeting were approved and signed.

Roads and bridges-

Access permits- An application was reviewed and unanimously approved for an Access Permit for Danny Cobb on Cross Road.

An application was reviewed and unanimously approved for an Access Permit for Donald Lyons on Lyons Road, subject to receiving the \$25.00 application fee. A stipulation was placed on the Lyons permit that Duane Hart meet with the contractor before work begins.

Grout vehicles on West River Street- There is a car and a trailer parked within the travelled portion of the road in front of the Gary Grout residence. Duane would like the Selectboard to contact him to have them moved. Kevin will write a letter to him.

Fuel- The level in the fuel tank is at 1846 gallons, so it's time to order a load of fuel.

Paving- Duane suggests to do the paving on Winhall Hollow Road in 2015, which will be funded by a VTrans Class 2 road grant. This year he suggests doing Old Stowell Hill Road and Reilly Road, doing a reclamation and paving on both. The estimate for those is about \$40,000. He suggests the remainder of the paving budget for this year be put into paving on Landgrove Road. He will work on RFP's for this year's paving.

Kelly thanked the road crew for helping with the playground project.

Transfer Station items-

Uniforms- The crew feels the uniform shirts are too hot and are asking for T-shirts or shortsleeved shirts. Options were discussed about getting shirts through our uniform company or buying T-shirts that the employees would launder themselves. Having them in either green or yellow safety color was suggested. Duane suggested five shirts per person and include the road crew as well. Duane and Paul will look into prices. No action was taken at this meeting.

Liquor Board- None.

Old business-

Release of right of way to Noor- A motion was made and unanimously passed to have Steve, as acting chair, to sign the quit claim deed releasing the Town's right of crossing on the Noor property. This release was approved by the board at a previous meeting.

Scheduling of employee reviews- Monday, June 30 was set as a date to do all six reviews that evening starting at 5:00, subject to Jim Ameden's availability. Alternate dates are July 1 or 2.

HMGP projects update- Kevin reported that a flood protection wall, on the Genser property at the intersection of Rtes. 11 and 100, is currently holding up the buyout of that property due to disagreement between VTrans and FEMA about the wall. The other four buyouts are moving forward.

Septic smell at the Stoddard property on Route 100- Steve as Health Officer asked to convene the Board of Health (the Selectboard) to see if the Town should have a part in resolving this problem. He thinks the Board of Health should speak with the Town's attorney about legal responsibilities. Steve would like to spend approximately \$200 to do a dye test on three more septic systems in the neighborhood. The board expressed interest in finding out if Chad Stoddard has followed up on recommendations from the last Selectboard meeting. Further action was tabled until next meeting.

Administrator job description- A motion was made and unanimously approved to adopt the draft job description as written.

Discussions with Winhall about police coverage in Londonderry- Kevin has received word from Winhall that they feel the best way to move forward would be a joint meeting between the two Selectboards. Is the Londonderry board interested in meeting and furthering this discussion? The board's consensus is yes, as long as some ballpark costs are included in the discussion. Kevin will follow up.

New business-

New open meeting rules- Among the new rules are requirements to post agendas and minutes drafts on the Town's website. These requirements apply to all Town boards and commissions. Kevin and the Selectboard will work with all the other boards and commissions to make sure we're in compliance. In accordance with the requirements, a motion was made and unanimously approved to designate the Town Office and the two post offices as the designated physical posting places for meeting agendas.

Tax sale update- A tax sale is scheduled for June 30 at 10:00 AM. At this time there are five properties on the list. A motion was made and unanimously approved to have Jim Ameden, or Cathy Aragi as an alternate, to bid for the Town in the event that there are no other bids. In this case, the Town would bid an amount not exceeding the amount owed for taxes.

Wall mural- Bob Cowles asked if there have been any recent comments about the new mural.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10