

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 6, 2015

Present: Jim Ameden, Steve Prouty, Paul Gordon, Cathy Aragi, Kevin Beattie, Duane Hart, GNAT TV, Dick Dale, Bob Cowles, Jean Zammataro, Sandra Clark, Esther Fishman, Sharon Crossman

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Additions and deletions to the agenda- A motion was made and unanimously passed to add a discussion of oversight of Town properties under New Business. A motion was made and unanimously passed to add Bob Cowles to Visitors and Concerned Citizens. A motion was made and unanimously passed to move Transfer Station business to before Roads and Bridges

Correspondence- The following correspondence was passed around: Efficiency Vermont streetlight letter, notice of Education tax rates, Vermont Local Roads newsletter, letter from Joel and Gail Kuhlberg, letter from the Rotary Club.

Announcements- None.

Pay orders- Pay orders were signed.

Visitors and Concerned Citizens

Sandra Clark, Listers business- The 2015 Grand List is finalized. There were no BCA appeals this year.

Sandra recommended to the board that late Homestead filing penalties be waived up until August 1st when tax bills go out. After that date she recommends the penalty to be set at 3%. A motion was made and unanimously passed to set the penalties according to Sandra's recommendations.

Sandra recommended that a category of items, "Town Official business", be added to the agenda.

Sandra also advised the board that the Directory on the Town website needs updating.

Bob Cowles- The "triangle" near the shopping center has received work and looks good. Bob also inquired about progress on the discussion of policing.

Minutes- Paul asked for a correction to the 6/15 minutes before approval. Kevin will listen to the meeting recording again to clarify a motion that was made by Paul. A motion was made and unanimously passed to table approval of the 6/15 minutes until that is done.

Separate motions to approve the 6/17 minutes and 6/30 minutes were unanimously approved.

Transfer Station-

Policy for charging nonprofits- Esther advised that most transfer stations charge nonprofits. Jim brought up our fire departments and rescue squad, that in Londonderry they are independent nonprofits and not connected with the Town. Would they be charged if the policy is changed? One option might be to have an application process for relief from paying tipping fees. Steve asked if the new “pay as you throw” regulations might affect policy decisions about nonprofits. Esther will look for further answers and direction for the questions raised. No further action was taken.

Cash management- Our recent professional audit strongly recommends better controls on cash management at the Transfer Station. Esther stated that she favors a bag system whereby citizens must purchase bags for trash disposal at an amount that covers the tipping fee. Other options might include a coupon or punch ticket system. Jamaica and Winhall both have recently started using a bag system and Esther advised seeing how it works out for those towns before we implement a system. No further action was taken.

Roads and bridges-

Overweight Permits- Applications were unanimously approved for Merrill Excavating, Larry Brown, and Alvin Rawson. Applications from Dailey’s and TAM were tabled pending receiving insurance certificates.

Guardrails on the Lowell Lake Road project- Up to this point project plans and the contract have included wooden guardrails as a concession to the aesthetic and historic nature of the site. Until recently VTrans has said that wood guardrails could be approved. Recent comments made by Marc Pickering of VTrans to Duane are that it would need to be steel reinforced wood. The board discussed other options including weathering steel. It was agreed to get in writing from Marc Pickering what he will accept. No further action was taken.

Access permit- An application was unanimously approved for an application from Emily Williams on Middletown Road for an improved access into a field. The access is not for the purpose of a driveway to a house.

Winhall Hollow Road guardrails- Duane has obtained a quote for approximately \$18,000 from Vermont Recreational Surfacing and Fencing, Inc. There are only two guardrail companies in Vermont. Lafayette is about \$3.00 per foot more expensive. A motion was made to approve going with the quote from Vermont Recreational Surfacing and Fencing, not to exceed \$18,000, and the motion included a note that we were unable to obtain three prices for the job. The motion was unanimously approved.

West River Street pavement damage- A local contractor did some damage to the new pavement while unloading an excavator. A motion was made to notify Rugg Valley Landscaping that we intend to hold them responsible for the cost of repair. After discussion, the motion was amended to send a letter to Rugg Valley that damage to the Town's paved roads is unacceptable and in the future to take precautions to avoid it happening again. The letter will include stating that this time asking for reimbursement for damage is being waived. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Sharon brought to the board's attention that the new pavement in front of the Depot building may be causing a drainage problem. Duane will look at it.

Work plan- There was some discussion, no action taken.

Mulch hay from the septage field- Duane let the board know that we have more than enough mulch hay and suggested that we should try to sell some this year when the haying is done. Kevin Beattie has been doing the haying for about ten years at a cost of about \$1200-1300. It was discussed that we should obtain other prices according to our purchasing policy. No further action was taken.

Liquor Board- None

Old business-

Buyout properties- Sharon reported on some things that have been accomplished since the last selectboard meeting. Sharon was invited to attend a Rotary Club meeting. The Rotary voted to assist with maintenance of the three buyout properties that are being considered for some improvements. The Planning Commission met with the Parks Board and discussed some of the options in the concept plans. Sharon and Kevin met with Mike and Debbie Carlton, who own property adjacent to the Barker buyout property. The property line between the two lots is not established and should be surveyed. We have some money in our FEMA grant to do that. Sharon also contacted Two Rivers-Outaquechee RPC to get clarification on the CBDG grant, and what amount of changes can be made to the existing concept plans. No further action was taken.

Facility use policy and agreement- Paul wrote up another draft that incorporates some feedback from PACIF. It was agreed to send the draft to PACIF for comment and plan to adopt at the next meeting if possible. It was discussed that, in generally, work on policies is proceeding slowly and some special work session meetings should be scheduled.

Policing- Paul made the following motion:

*"I move to create an ad hoc committee to study and present a proposal for a possible policing plan for the Town of Londonderry to the Select Board.
The purpose of this committee is to examine and study possible options for policing and to bring a recommendation to the Select Board. The committee will elect a chairperson, hold open meetings, keep minutes and periodically update the Select Board.*

The Select Board will study the committee's recommendation, consider holding public meetings, and determine if a Special Town Meeting is warranted.

This committee will be composed of 9 diverse members of the community who are willing to invest time to represent and serve the community. There will be one member from each of the following: Safety (fire/rescue), Church and School. Additionally, there will be two members from non-profit organizations, businesses and the community at large.

Letters of interest from prospective members will be welcomed by the Select Board during the month of July. Emails or USPS letters (postmarked) by July 30, 2015 will be accepted. A committee will be appointed at the August 3rd Select Board meeting.

The committee will report to the board by November 2, 2015."

After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Champion Lease agreement- A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve a draft that incorporates suggested additions made by our attorney Bob Fisher.

Town Administrator position- The board went through the existing job description that was adopted last year, and made some suggested wording changes. No further action was taken.

New Business-

Engineering services for the Genser Annex property- The board reviewed nine proposals. A motion was made and unanimously approved to select Eckman Engineering from Portsmouth, NH, contingent on favorable reports from references and confirmation that there will be no additional hourly charges for performing the outlined scope of work.

Oversight of Town properties- Due to the late hour, a motion was made and unanimously passed to table this discussion to a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18.