

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm at the Town Office in Dummerston Center, Vermont.

Members Present: Chairman Paul Normandeau; Vice Chairman Shorty Forrett; Clerk Lester Dunklee, Jack Manix, and Cindy Jerome

Also Present: Mike Marquise of Marquise & Morano, LLC; Kevin Ryan, Tom Bodette, and Administrative Assistant Linda McCulloch

Shorty moved to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2005 and January 6, 2005 meetings and to pay Warrants 15 and 15P. Cindy seconded and the motion passed.

The Board recognized Mike Marquise who is working on a solution for the failed septic system shared by several property owners on West Street. It is unlikely that each house could have its own system due to ledge and the water table. Shorty abstained from the discussion which followed. It concluded with the Board stating they would only consider a solution using town property at the Community Center if it's the last resort. Mr. Marquise asked for permission to dig test pits on the town property if, after testing other possibilities, it was the only solution. Digging the test pits will require a backhoe and it would be cost effective to do them at the same time. He assured the Board that the holes would be filled in and reseeded. Cindy moved that the Board authorize the digging of test pits on the town's property, if necessary, while doing the other sites. Jack seconded and the motion passed with Shorty abstaining. Paul asked if Mr. Marquise would send a follow up letter to the Board summarizing this discussion and including what will be done and by whom, and the conditions specified by the Board.

Continuing with correspondence, a letter was received from Nuclear Free Vermont by 2012 outlining Ten Things to Make the Evacuation Plan Better. Cindy offered to call or write a letter to the Emergency Management Agency asking what became of the previous letter from this Selectboard outlining concerns.

Regarding Fisher and Fisher's letter offering "town hours", Paul suggested that Fisher and Fisher should have a list of who is authorized to engage their services on behalf of the town. Paul will provide them with that list.

A fully executed First Amendment to Grant Agreement dated January 10, 2005 was received from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The amendment provides a time extension for the work to be done at the Community Center. Kendall Gifford submitted an update for the agreement asking for increased funding. Jack moved and Cindy seconded that Paul sign the amendment. The motion passed. Lester will create a letter from the Community Center to the Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs confirming their commitment to the project and the additional funding over the original Grant Agreement. Linda will mail both to the Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs after Lester's letter is received.

Other correspondence circulated among the members included a January 8 letter from ADT Security advising of a rate increase, three letters from Agency of Resources regarding Robert and Susan Sprague's property, a January 12 assessment notification from WSWMD, a January 12 memo from Gary Schelley to Floyd Roberts regarding the wear on the Covered Bridge, the 9/15/04 Closeout Agreement Annual Reports from the Town of Newfane, a January 12 RFP from Gary Schelley on the Canoe Brook project, and a January 7 Delinquent Tax Report.

Lester moved and Jack seconded the signing of the Certificate of Highway Mileage for the Year Ending February 10, 2005. The motion passed.

Jack moved and Shorty seconded the approval of hiring Arthur Jacobs III as a full time town employee.

Since two people should have authority to sign checks in case the Treasurer is absent, Jack moved and Shorty seconded that the Treasurer and Selectboard Chair are authorized to sign checks. The motion passed.

Cindy moved and Shorty seconded a resolution for the Treasurer to borrow funds when designated by the Board. The motion passed.

The deadline for receiving petitions for the Warning for Town Meeting is tomorrow and one may be coming from the Vt. National Guard. Cindy moved and Jack seconded a motion to approve the current Warning subject to change. The motion passed with the understanding that if another petition is received tomorrow all members will come in and sign the updated Warning Articles.

Road Foreman Wayne Emery was not present but Paul informed the Board that there was another transmission problem in the 2001 Ford.

Shorty spoke to Virginia Carter, owner of the building that houses the post office in West Dummerston, about the parking problem. Shorty researched the records to see who has ownership of the problem area. The "U" shaped drive to the post office is owned by Ms. Carter and she is welcome to post signs if her private property rights are being infringed upon. Shorty will speak to Polly Wilson and clarify the ownership question.

At 9:05PM, on a move from Cindy and second from Lester, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:29PM and took no action. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Paul E. Normandeau, Chairman

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Lester L. Dunklee, Clerk

Minutes: Linda McCulloch, Administrative Assistant