

This meeting was called to order at 7pm at the Town Office in Dummerston Center, VT.

Members Present: Board Chair Cindy Jerome, Vice Chair Paul Normandeau, Clerk Kevin Ryan, Tom Bodett, and Shorty Forrett

Also Present: Sharon Tuttle, Richard Tuttle, Linda Hellus, Jean Momaney, Ginny Carter, Ann Davis, Robert J. Wood, Jason Davis, Dan Normandeau, Dick Tenney, Virginia Tenney, Attorney Joseph Cook, Eric Davis, Lester Dunklee, Randy Hickin, and Administrative Assistant Linda McCulloch

Cindy explained that the special meeting of the Board was called because the request of the four West Village property owners, to use Community Center land to replace their failed septic system, should be answered as soon as possible. She had consulted the Town's attorney, Bob Fisher, and his advice was that the Town not sell or use Town property to resolve the issue as it would negate possible future use. He also reminded Cindy that any proposal to sell public land would have to be approved by Town voters. The concept that other solutions might be too expensive was not enough reason to use Town land.

Board members expressed regret that the focus of the last meeting was on the merits of the proposed solution and not on the issue of whether or not public land should be used. The Board fears that some may have left the last meeting with the hope that the Board might approve a plan that involves a smaller footprint than the previous proposal.

Attorney Joe Cook announced a proposed meeting for next Monday, May 23, 2005, at 9:00am in his office to discuss possible solutions to the crisis. He suggested that the most cost effective solution may be to install septic systems on each of the four properties as well as possibly having some common wells.

Dick Tenney, John Worden's son-in-law, suggested that the meeting be held at the site of the failed septic, rather than at Joe's office. He explained the history of the problem and said that the families involved have a legal obligation to clean up the failed site. He was disappointed that parties to the problem were unwilling to come to a meeting last October. Reluctance to address the problem resulted in the Worden's attorney issuing a letter stating that the current septic system would be capped on May 16, 2005. Only the presentation of a viable solution will prevent the capping of the system in the near future.

Attorney Cook asked if the Board could table any decision about using public land until after the parties had a chance to meet on Monday, May 23rd.

Cindy asked Board members to state their position on the matter. The majority felt strongly opposed to using Town land. They felt the discussions among property owners taking place tonight and scheduled for Monday should have taken place long ago. The Board feels that not all possible solutions apart from using Town land have been explored. Paul moved that the Board write a letter to those sharing the joint septic system stating that the Board will not sell Town

land or allow a portion of it to be used for a private septic system. Tom seconded the motion.

Randy Hickin said that more neighbors were involved than just those using the joint septic system because of the water, springs, and wells on West St. He spoke of several other areas in Dummerston that must have similar problems, or will at some point in the future.

The Board responded that Rural Development has had funding in the past for these types of issues, that there is a joint Dummerston-Newfane fund for low income families for these types of issues, that the Town will probably have to be a party to these problems in the future, and that they will involve the Planning Commission.

Paul moved the question, Kevin seconded and the motion passed to call the question.

The Board voted with four members in favor of, and Shorty abstaining from, the motion on the table to write a letter to the parties using the septic system on the Worden property advising them that the Board will not sell Town land or allow a portion of Town land to be used by them for a septic system.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Approved

Cindy Jerome, Chair

Kevin Ryan, Clerk

Minutes: Linda McCulloch, Administrative Assistant