

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

April 9, 2008

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

Members Present: Chair Lewis White, Vice-Chair Andrew MacFarland, and Wayne Emery

Members Absent: Cindy Jerome and Patricia Stello

Also Present: Lee Chamberlin, Melanie Chamberlin, Sarah Evans, Chris Garofolo from the *Brattleboro Reformer*, Layla Lewis, Pam McFadden, Steve Mindel, David Newell, Jody Normandeau, Anna Piergentili and Laurie Frechette

On a motion by Wayne and second from Andrew, the Board approved, 3-0, the minutes from March 26th and the payment of Warrants 21 and 21P.

The Board recognized members of the Dummerston Recreation Board: Melanie Chamberlin, Sarah Evans, Layla Lewis, David Newell and Anna Piergentili. Lewis spoke of his frustration with the increased fee of \$20 per child to play baseball. In previous years, it has been \$15 per child and he feels that baseball is subsidizing the other newer programs. The Recreation Board reviewed the expenses of the baseball program and indicated that the fee increase will just cover program expenses and is not subsidizing other programs.

Discussion took place regarding the outside storage of the soccer equipment. Sarah and Anna reassured the Board that the equipment will not be damaged by being stored outside.

The two Boards discussed the Recreation Board's budget and bank balance. Melanie explained that the adult volleyball tournaments are entirely a fundraising program to help offset increasing expenses.

Jody Normandeau questioned the Selectboard's role in overseeing the Recreation Board. Laurie explained that under state statute, the Selectboard must approve all expenditures. As Town Treasurer, all monies raised are to be turned in to her for deposit into the Recreation Board's bank account. Proposed expenditures and receipts shall be submitted to her; she will prepare a warrant for the next Selectboard meeting. After receiving the Board's approval, she will write checks on the day following the meeting.

Andrew expressed his support for all of the hard work the members of the Recreation Board have been doing. Wayne and Lewis both reassured them that they also have their support.

The Board recognized Pam McFadden, Collector of Delinquent Taxes who presented a list of delinquent taxpayers from 1998 to the present. After some discussion, it was decided that Pam will send letters to all taxpayers with delinquencies of two or more years, giving them a deadline to make payment arrangements before a tax sale is pursued.

The Board and Pam discussed the status of Arthur Fiske's tax delinquency. The current Judgment Order stands at approximately \$3500. According to Town Atty. Bob Fisher, the Town can either pursue further collections or take over the trailer and have it removed.

Road Foreman, Lee Chamberlin presented his report. He spoke to the Board about the meeting that he and Lewis had with Ken Chamberlin regarding the drainage issues affecting Ken's property across from the intersection of Miller Road and East West Road.

The Board reviewed an email request from Matt Mann at the Windham Regional Commission for a letter specifying the Board's concerns regarding the parking along Route 30 near the Rock River swimming area. Laurie was asked to draft a letter for the Board.

Lee went over the bid specifications for the new one-ton truck. All bids will be due by 5PM on April 23rd and will be opened at the Board's meeting that evening.

Jody Normandeau thanked Lee for his prompt response during this past winter.

The Board reviewed a request for Identification of Needs & Concerns from the George D. Aiken RC&D. This request has been passed along to the Conservation Commission.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Energy Committee giving its support to the proposed changes to the street lighting in West Dummerston Village. On a motion from Andrew and second by Wayne, the Board voted 3-0 to give Bob Taylor their approval to proceed with this project.

On a motion by Wayne and second from Andrew, the Board voted 3-0 to accept Diana Lischer-Goodband's resignation from the Energy Committee.

The Board recognized Planning Commission Chair, Steve Mindel who recommended the scheduling of a meeting of all Town boards, commissions, committees, etc. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 11th at 7PM in the basement of the church.

On a motion by Andrew and second from Wayne, the Board voted 3-0 to sign the "Certificate – No Appeal or Suit Pending" from the Board of Listers.

On a motion by Andrew and second from Wayne, the Board voted 3-0 to sign the trailer park licenses for Ralph Bolster and the VT Housing Foundation.

Andrew volunteered to serve as the Board's liaison with the Energy Committee.

The Board recognized Town Treasurer, Laurie Frechette and Town Clerk/Assistant Treasurer, Pam McFadden who spoke to them about a recently discovered error in the calculation of the 2008 tax rate. At the March 2007 Town Meeting, the voters authorized the financing of a sum not to exceed \$70,000 for the purpose of funding a new rescue truck for the Fire Department. When the 2008 tax rate was set by the Selectboard in early July 2007, the \$70,000 was inadvertently omitted from the total budget calculations. Laurie and Pam have consulted with VLCT and Town Attorney, Bob Fisher to find out what options the town has to make up this difference. Sending out a supplemental tax bill was not chosen.

After some discussion, Andrew moved to authorize the Town Treasurer to take out a Current Expense Note not to exceed \$70,000 with TD Banknorth and to include the \$70,000 repayment in the 2009 tax year. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Andrew spoke about scheduling a 6 month performance evaluation for Zoning Administrator, Gina Faro. Laurie will check with Gina to make sure that May 7th is a workable date.

Andrew moved to issue an Emergency Health Order to be served to Cleon Barrows regarding the failed septic system on his property at 360 Hill Road. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed by a 3-0 vote.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

April 23, 2008
Approved

Lewis White, Chairman

Andrew MacFarland, Vice-Chairman

Submitted by Laurie Frechette, Administrative Assistant