

## UNAPPROVED

### SELECTBOARD MINUTES

**July 30, 2008**

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

Members Present: Chair Lewis White, Wayne Emery, Cindy Jerome, Andrew MacFarland and Jack Manix

Also Present: Ruth Barton, Ginny Carter, Heidi Fischer, Dawn Hubbard, Casey Murrow, Allen Palmer, Julie Peterson, Lew Sorenson (at 8:30PM), David Tansey and Laurie Frechette

On a motion from Cindy and second from Jack, the Board approved 4-0 (Andrew abstained) the minutes from July 16<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion from Cindy and second by Jack, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize payment of Warrants 3, 3A and 3P.

The Board recognized Allen Palmer from the State of VT BGS Property Management division and Casey Murrow and Julie Peterson from the Southeastern VT Learning Collaborative. Discussion took place regarding the former regional library building on Route 5, which is owned by the State of VT; leased to the Town Dummerston, and sub-leased to the Learning Collaborative. The original 3-year lease was signed in 2002 and renewed in 2005. The current lease will expire on November 1, 2008. The Commissioner wants to renew the lease as is for another year. At the end of that year, the State would like to turn the building over to the Town. Andrew requested any information that they can provide on a long-range maintenance plan; a list of maintenance tasks that have already been done, and a list of any restrictions on the use of the building.

Casey spoke briefly about the Collaborative's interest in continuing their tenancy as well as their concern about the escalating expenses.

The Board recognized Heidi Fischer, Dummerston's representative to Rescue, Inc.'s Board of Trustees. Heidi reminded the Board of the upcoming meetings for the towns that are serviced by Rescue. There is a meeting in Townshend on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and one in Chesterfield on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Some of the topics to be covered are: changes in Rescue's operations; management structure; update on financial situation, and Board of Trustees structure. They will not be hiring a new Executive Director. Andrew commended Rescue on all of their hard work over the past year to boost their public image.

Emergency Management Director, Dawn Hubbard spoke to the Board about the location of emergency sirens. Discussion took place about locating them at Johnson's Curve Road, the Highway Garage, the fire station in West Dummerston and possibly Sunset Lake Road. Andrew moved to test the first two sirens at the Highway Garage and the West Dummerston fire station to see how far the sound will carry; then decide if and where the other two sirens should be located. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-1 vote. Cindy voted no; she is strongly in favor of installing all four sirens at the same time. She also expressed the Board's frustration in not having the sound studies from Entergy Vermont Yankee that have been promised so many times over several years.

The Board will hold a public meeting to discuss the placement of the emergency sirens on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, either in the basement of the Congregational Church or the Community Center. Laurie was asked to check on the availability of these two sites.

Lewis reported to the Board that Russ Howe is selling his property on Beaver Pond Road and is willing to allow the Town to relocate a section of the road through his land. The Selectboard will conduct a site visit on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4PM.

The Board reviewed a draft of Zoning Administrator, Gina Faro's letter to the Scott Farm regarding a potential zoning violation. Lew Sorenson left the building at 8:52PM. The Board recognized David Tansey from the Scott Farm, who spoke at length about the value of holding weddings at the farm and his frustration with the Town requiring a zoning permit to hold such events. The Board expressed its understanding of the challenges facing farmers and its support for a flexible definition of agricultural use. They encouraged Mr. Tansey to use the permit process in place and to make his arguments to the Zoning Administrator, Development Review Board and Planning Commission. After Mr. Tansey's departure from the meeting, Lew Sorenson re-entered the building.

The Board reviewed and briefly discussed a letter from Matt Mann at the Windham Regional Commission regarding an upcoming meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup> of the towns comprising the West River Corridor. Cindy expressed her reservations about attending the meeting if the Board is not in support of the Rock River access project. It was undecided whether or not any Board member(s) will attend the meeting.

On a motion by Cindy and second from Andrew, the Board voted 5-0 to reappoint Diana Lischer-Goodband to the Energy Committee.

On a motion by Cindy and second from Andrew, the Board voted 5-0 to sign a Letter of Agreement for Computer Appraisal Services from the VT Department of Taxes.

Andrew will contact Cary Gaunt to determine the Town's next step in the Southern Loop project and report back at the next meeting. The Town of Brookline has withdrawn from their intervener status.

The Board discussed possible changes in the personnel policy regarding changing the calculation of earned vacation time and sick time to one-hour increments instead of days. Andrew will draft the changes and bring them to the Board at the next meeting.

At 9:52PM, Andrew moved to enter Executive Session to discuss possible pending litigation. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

At 10:00PM, the Board came out of Executive Session.

At 10:12PM, Andrew moved and Jack seconded going into Executive Session, with Lew Sorenson present, for a personnel matter. At 10:20PM, the Board came out of Executive Session and Lew Sorenson left the meeting.

Cindy moved and Wayne seconded sending the Planning Commission a letter regarding two issues: we will ask that they review the Zoning Bylaw provisions as they apply to setbacks for fences, and clarify the requirements for fences over 4 feet in height, at the earliest possible time and we will ask that the Planning Commission look at the definition of agricultural use, stressing the Selectboard's support of broadening the definition of agricultural activities. The motion passed 5-0. Andrew will draft the letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28PM.

---

Approved

---

Lewis White, Chairman

---

Cindy Jerome, Clerk

Submitted by: Cindy Jerome, Clerk  
Laurie Frechette, Administrative Assistant