

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

November 5, 2008

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

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

Also Present: Sheriff Keith Clerk (at 8:10pm), Carolyn Conrad, Jennifer Denyou and Laurie Frechette

On a motion from Wayne and second by Jack, the Board approved the minutes from October 22nd and payment of Warrants 10, 10P and CC-2 on a 5-0 vote.

The Board briefly reviewed correspondence from Greg Brown regarding the shortage of water at Charette's Trailer Park on RT 5. A meeting has been scheduled with members of the VT State Housing Authority (VSHA) on November 12th. Greg will attend the Board meeting on November 19th to give an update on the situation.

In the Road Foreman's absence, Laurie presented the Board with his report. The work on High Bridge has been completed.

The emergency siren has been installed at the West fire station; the one at the highway garage should be finished in the very near future.

Pete Schor and Deb Forrett have requested a meeting with Lee and two Selectboard members to discuss the potential reclassification of the upper end of Beaver Pond Road from Class 3 to Class 4. Wayne and Lewis offered to meet with them one evening this week.

Discussion and/or action on the resignation letter from the Zoning Administrator was tabled until later in the meeting.

On a motion from Andrew and second by Cindy, the Board voted 5-0 to sign a "No Bystander" resolution (copy attached).

The Board received an invitation from Emergency Management Director, Dawn Hubbard to attend the Emergency Management Appreciation Dinner on November 18th. No Board members will be attending; Laurie was asked to send their regrets.

Andrew reported that hearings on the Southern Loop project are being held this week in Montpelier.

Wayne updated the Board on his research into Post Office Loop and Lyons Street. According to the town road records, Lyons Street was thrown up in 1906 from Mrs. Effie Taft's house to the railroad bed. He is trying to verify the exact location of her house.

Much discussion ensued regarding Post Office Loop; i.e. throwing it up, plowing/sanding/salting it in the meantime, etc. Cindy requested that the minutes read "The Town does not believe this is a Town road and tried to take it off the state highway map but were told by the state that we must go through the procedure of throwing it up". After more discussion, the Board agreed to salt Post Office Loop through the upcoming winter season.

On a motion by Cindy and second from Andrew, the Board re-appointed Mark Brown as Town Coordinator for Green Up Day 2009 (May 2, 2009).

The Board reviewed proposed changes to the Personnel Policy. The changes have been given to Lee to discuss with the highway crew. This topic will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

Andrew reported to the Board on his recent conversation with Planning Commission Chair, Steve Mindel regarding the preparation of their budget for FY 2010. They have been approached by a member of the Newfane Selectboard regarding the possibility of sharing a Zoning Administrator between the two towns. Cindy expressed her reservations about the idea; however the remaining Board members gave their approval to a preliminary discussion.

The Housing Advisory Commission is planning to sponsor a forum in January and wishes to apply for a \$500-1000 grant. The Board gave their approval for this application.

Windham County Sheriff, Keith Clark joined the meeting at 8:10pm. He and representatives from the Windham County Humane Society, Carolyn Conrad and Jennifer Denyou were invited to join the Board at the table for discussion on animal control in Dummerston. As of July 1, 2009, the Sheriff's Department will not provide this service. Sheriff Clark explained his frustration with the towns in Windham County not going along with a uniform county-wide animal control ordinance, thus making it more difficult for the deputies to familiarize themselves with, and enforce each town's regulations. He is strongly encouraging each town to provide their own animal control officer. The Sheriff's Department will continue to enforce the state statutes regarding animal neglect and abuse.

Carolyn and Jennifer explained the Humane Society's role in animal neglect and abuse investigations and their willingness to assist in training an animal control officer for the towns in Windham County.

Laurie asked for clarification on who should be called when a report of a nuisance animal is received. At this time, either Jack or Wayne will take the initial call and investigate the complaint.

Carolyn spoke to the Board about a recent complaint of suspected animal neglect on Stickney Brook Road. Jack and Wayne will investigate the situation and report back to the Humane Society.

Carolyn and Jennifer left the meeting at 8:50pm.

Wayne questioned Sheriff Clark about the types of traffic tickets that are issued and if they both generate income for the town. Keith explained that there is one type of ticket but two separate codes. He explained the rate of reimbursement: a \$27 surcharge is subtracted from the original fine; the Town should receive 80% of the remainder. He presented the Board with a list of all traffic tickets issued since January 2007 and the corresponding fines. Laurie will research the fines that have been received from the judicial bureau and attempt to reconcile the two reports.

Sheriff Clark left the meeting at 9:22pm.

On a motion from Cindy and second from Wayne, the Board entered executive session at 9:24pm to discuss a personnel matter. Laurie was excused from the meeting and left the building. The Board left executive session at 9:44pm. Cindy moved and Jack seconded that the Board accept the Zoning Administrator's resignation, dated October 23 and effective today, November 5. The motion passed 5-0.

Wayne moved and Jack seconded that, subject to her agreement, the Board appoints Laurie Frechette as Interim Zoning Administrator. It was noted that several applications have been received for this position and the closing date is November 10th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51pm.

Approved

Lewis White, Chairman

Cindy Jerome, Clerk

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