

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

January 14, 2009

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, Wayne Emery and Cindy Jerome

Absent: Jack Manix

Also Present: Charlotte Annis, Tom Bodett, Lee Chamberlin, Joe Cook, Mary Ellen Copeland, Amy Dews, Zeke Goodband, Pam McFadden, Rick Mills, Bob Suito and Laurie Frechette

On a motion from Wayne and second by Andrew, the Board voted 3-0 (**with 1 abstention**) to approve the minutes from December 30th and 4-0 to approve the minutes from January 6th.

On a motion from Wayne and second by Andrew, the Board voted 4-0 to authorize the payment of Warrants 15, 15P & RB-6.

The Board recognized Charlotte Annis, who was recently appointed as Zoning Administrator. She presented a brief synopsis of her work to-date. She will provide the Selectboard with a quarterly activity report. Andrew reviewed the Personnel Policy regarding the probationary period with Charlotte and noted that the probationary period for Zoning Administrator is six months, with a three-month review as part of the process. Charlotte and the Board will meet in April for her 3-month performance review.

The Board invited School Board members Amy Dews, Charlotte Annis and Rick Mills to the table. Amy presented information about the free and reduced lunch program along with a request for \$8000 from the Miller Fund to supplement the shortfall in the program. Cindy moved to grant \$8000 from the Miller Fund to put toward the free and reduced lunch program. Andrew seconded the motion and it was defeated by a 1-3 vote.

Andrew moved to allocate \$6000 from the Miller Fund to put toward the free and reduced lunch program. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-0 vote.

The Board reviewed a request from School Nurse, Mary Ann Runge for \$1400 **from the Miller Fund** to supplement the Winter Activities program. Amy explained the concept behind making Winter Activities mandatory for all students this year. Andrew moved to grant the \$1400 request and Cindy seconded the motion. Lewis voiced his strong opposition and his belief that if activities are made mandatory, then the School Board should be paying for them out of their budget. After much discussion, Andrew called the question. The motion passed on a 3-1 vote. Cindy, Andrew and Wayne voted yes; Lewis voted no.

A Candidates' Forum will be held on Tuesday, February 10th at 7pm at the school.

The School Board and Selectboard wish to hold a joint meeting with our state legislators after Town Meeting.

Amy advised the Board that the FY 2010 school budget will be increasing 1.93%. The educational tax rate should remain the same as this year.

The Board recognized Conservation Commission chair, Mary Ellen Copeland who reported that the hemlock wooly adelgid has been confirmed in Dummerston. The state has been informed; no word yet on what action may be taken.

The Board recognized Lee Chamberlin who presented the Road Foreman’s report. There was no update on the Tucker Reed Road bridge project, pending a meeting with the state.

The Board reviewed an email from Matt Mann at Windham Regional Commission regarding their request for turning lanes on RT 30.

The Board and Lee discussed at length the FY 2010 Capital Budget Plan and the planned purchase of a new dump truck. It was decided to keep the planned expenditure of \$115,000 as is.

On a motion from Andrew and second by Cindy, the Board voted 4-0 to accept with regret the resignation of Diana Wahle from the Housing Advisory Commission.

The Board reviewed a request from the Lydia Taft Pratt Library trustees to expand their Board from 5 to 7 members. On a motion from Andrew and second by Wayne, the Board voted 4-0 to add this request to the 2009 Town Meeting Warning.

The Board reviewed a request from the U.S. Census Bureau for a list of emergency and transitional shelters. Dummerston has none to report.

The Board reviewed an email from EMD, Dawn Hubbard regarding the availability of grants to buy generators for town shelters. She wondered if the town would like to have one placed at the Community Center in West Dummerston. The Board will check with Dawn to see if she can use part of the annual \$5000 stipend to put toward the matching funds.

Wayne updated the Board on the status of the five horses located at Arthur Wood Jr.’s property on Stickney Brook Road. He spoke to the Humane Society who advised him that by state statute, a standing tree shelter is adequate. Therefore, there is nothing further the Town can do at this time.

Cindy moved to approve the FY 2010 General Fund Operating Budget of \$947,407. Andrew seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-0 vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.

Approved

Lewis White, Chair

Cindy Jerome, Clerk

Submitted by: Laurie Frechette, Administrative Assistant