

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2012

This meeting was called to order by Chair, Lewis White at 6pm at the Town Offices in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members present: Tom Bodett, Steve Glabach, Zeke Goodband, Bill Holiday, Lewis White

Also present: Janet Avery, Bridie Carmichael, Lee Chamberlin, Jeanie Crosby, Lilly DePino, Sam Farwell, Lyn Haas, Carol Haney, Libby Lafland, William Menezes, Casey Murrow, Harold & Jean Newell, Jody Normandeau, Catherine O'Callahan, Melissa Petroski, John Pinkney, Herb Rest, Terri Robinson, Paul Smith, Sherwood Smith, Gail Sorenson, Molly Stoner, Bob Taylor, Winnie Vogt, Melissa Worden, Rich Melanson from *BCTV*, Mike Faher from *Brattleboro Reformer*, Laurie Frechette

On a motion by Zeke and second by Tom, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of October 31; as well as the ratification of Warrant 9A, and payment of Warrants 10, 10P and RB4.

The Board recognized Jeanie Crosby, Lyn Haas and Paul Smith, from the SE VT Learning Collaborative. Lewis explained that a recent letter sent from the Town Atty. to the SEVLC crossed in the mail & apologized for the confusion. He then went on to discuss the overdue property taxes and asked what the Collaborative's plan is to rectify the situation. The Town Listers did not grant their request for tax exempt status and that is the end of their participation in this matter. Negotiations will come through the Selectboard. Paul Smith asked that percentages of building usage not be used; just a simple amount. Zeke asked if they remembered the statement made at the special Town Meeting a few years ago that the Collaborative would be paying full property taxes on the property should they be allowed to purchase it. Tom explained that a former SB member made that statement & the SEVLC board members present and their attorney did not dispute the statement. We are waiting for our Town Attorney to finish his analysis of the most recent information submitted to him. Lewis will follow up with Paul early next week.

Jody Normandeau questioned what will happen with the payment of the state education taxes. The state will make that determination.

The Board invited Lydia Taft Pratt Trustees, Janet Avery, Winnie Vogt and Sherwood Smith to join them at the table. The topic of conversation was a letter dated November 7, 2012 from the Community Center Board of Trustees, in which they stated that unless the proposed agreement is signed before the 9th of December, the electricity will be turned off at that time and the Library closed until further notice. The conflict between the two boards is regarding the wording of the annual financial payment made by the Library; contribution or rent. A lengthy discussion ensued. Lewis will contact the Community Center Trustees and encourage them to attend the Library Trustees' meeting on November 29th at 6pm.

Road Foreman, Lee Chamberlin presented the Highway Report. The road crew has been working on clearing leaves from ditches & will begin cutting brush soon.

The Board reviewed a Curb Cut Permit application for Margaret Barry at 225 Stickney Brook Road. Lee described the restriction for a drainage cutout. Steve moved to approve the application; Bill seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

The Board opened Cemetery/Town Lawn mowing bids received from Brett Castine and Edward Sleeper. Zeke moved to award the contract to the lowest bidder, Castine Mowing. Bill seconded the motion; it passed 5-0.

Tom updated the Board on the Renaud Gravel Pit's progress. The Act 250 application has been filed. The DRB met last week and issued an addendum to their requirement for a safety fence along the southern boundary to a 4' high orange plastic security fence.

He also reported on recent conversations with the Town Attorney regarding the Town's liability and the use of an escrow account for reclamation purposes.

Lewis revisited the question of "if Renaud Bros. declared bankruptcy within the next 5 years, where does that leave the Town?". Tom will ask this question of the Town Attorney and report back to the Board.

Gail Sorenson asked for clarification of how much gravel each entity will be receiving and why the Towns of Putney & Dummerston and Renaud Bros are splitting the costs three ways. Each town will receive $\frac{1}{4}$ of the gravel, with Renaud Bros receiving $\frac{1}{2}$. Tom explained that the cost splitting is due to the very low cost of gravel. She also asked that Tom write a brief article for the *Views of Dummerston* explaining this.

Herb Rest (DRB Chair) explained the recent DRB addendum and the need for the applicant to submit another application to actually amend the decision.

Correspondence for information included: VLCT health insurance renewal information; 9/28 DRB decision for Damian DePino on Old Ferry Road; Certificate of lien release for 2009 fire truck; 10/30 notice from TransCanada re: Notice of Intent to file application for new license.

The Board reviewed a request from the SE VT Economic Development Strategies to attend a future Board meeting to discuss a budget request. Laurie will invite them to attend the November 28th meeting to make a brief presentation.

Bill updated the Board on the Ancient Roads Committee's work. He spoke of Lee's suggestion to reclassify all Class 4 roads to Town Trails. He also spoke about the possibility of adding ancient trails to the state highway map and the need to be in contact with effected property owners. There are several roads in town that need to be corrected, either in name or in numbering.

At 8:10pm, Steve moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal issue. Tom seconded the motion; it passed 5-0.

Executive Session ended at 8:15pm, with no decisions being made.

With no other business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was accepted at 8:16pm.

Approved

Lewis White, Chair

Zeke Goodband, Vice-Chair

Submitted by: Laurie Frechette, Selectboard Assistant
Bill Holiday, Selectboard Clerk