

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

Members Present: Chairman Paul Normandeau; Vice Chairman Shorty Forrett; Clerk Lester Dunklee; and Cindy Jerome

Also Present: Fire Chief Allen Pike, Road Foreman Wayne Emery, and Administrative Assistant Linda McCulloch.

A motion was made and passed to approve the corrected minutes of December 8, 2004, the minutes of December 21, 2004 and December 29, 2004; and to pay Warrants 14 and 14P.

The Board recognized Allen Pike who asked if anyone had questions on the fire department's budget. The Board did not have questions but suggested that in the future the fire department show columns of the previous budget compared to expenditures. Answering a question from Cindy, Allen said that the department needs a new fire truck and rescue vehicle sooner rather than later. The next fire truck purchase is listed in the Capital Plan for 2008-09 and the Board asked Allen to submit a written request for the replacement to be scheduled earlier if their Board of Trustees thought it would be prudent.

Wayne Emery reported as Road Foreman that he will be meeting with Gary Schelley on Monday regarding the Canoe Brook Road culvert project. At that time he will see if Gary can look at the wear marks in the Covered Bridge.

Wayne recommends that Arthur Jacobs III become full time once his 90 day probation period is over on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Board discussed a note received from Mary Wilson regarding the public vs. private parking at the West Dummerston post office. The Board reviewed the parking ordinance and consulted the maps. Shorty will respond to Mary Wilson.

The Board noted receiving the petition from Brattleboro Senior Meals and asked Linda to add it to the Warning Articles for Town Meeting.

A motion was made and passed to ratify the acceptance of the resignation of Janice Duke as Town Clerk and Treasurer received last week and effective January 7, 2005. Janice will be retaining her position as Current and Delinquent Tax Receiver. Linda will create the necessary notice to post in two public places regarding the vacancy.

A motion was made and passed to ratify the appointment of Pam McFadden as interim Town Clerk and Treasurer.

The Board reviewed the Capital Plan and made one adjustment for the fire truck. \$32,000 was increased to \$40,000 for the years 2008-09 through 2012-13.

The Board discussed several last minute changes to the proposed budget and finally settled on a number that is a 4.9% increase over the previous year. A motion was made and passed to propose a July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 budget of \$770,716. It was noted that \$764,216 will be raised from taxes.

Changes and additions to the Warning Articles were reviewed and Linda will type them and e-mail or fax them to Board members for proofreading.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Paul E. Normandeau, Chairman

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Lester L. Dunklee, Clerk

Minutes: Linda McCulloch, Administrative Assistant