

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

Members Present: Chair, Tom Bodett; Vice-Chair, Cindy Jerome; Clerk, Andrew MacFarland; Paul Normandeau and Lewis White

Also Present: Lee Chamberlin, Terry Chapman, Janice Duke, Calvin & Jillian Farwell, Mark Kracum, Jean Newell, Jody Normandeau, Bill & Mary Lou Schmidt, David Shaw, Suzanne Weinberg, Paul Heintz from the *Brattleboro Reformer*, and Laurie Frechette

On a motion by Andrew and second from Paul, the Board approved the minutes from July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion from Paul and second by Lewis, the Board approved payment of Warrants 5 and 5P.

The Board recognized Cemetery Committee members Janice Duke, Jean Newell and Terry Chapman, who reported on their recent inspection of the five Town cemeteries. The five cemeteries in question are: Baptist Church Cemetery, Bennett Cemetery, Dummerston Hill Cemetery, Taft Cemetery and Wilder Cemetery. The committee questioned the Board on what their mission is meant to be. They would like to draw up rules to apply to all of the town-owned cemeteries.

Brush clearing and tree cutting is needed in the cemeteries. Janice questioned whether or not it will be possible to use some of the interest earned from the Putnam Fund to pay for a portion of the maintenance instead of adding to the Town's budget.

The Board agreed with the committee's suggestion to purchase signs for each cemetery with a \$200 gift received in the past year.

Cindy will send a letter from the Board to each committee member listing the Board's concerns and suggestions.

Road Foreman, Lee Chamberlin reported that the bridge at the end of Tucker Reed Road, closest to Middle Road is in serious need of repair. The south abutment is tipping to the north and in danger of falling in. The Board reviewed a letter from John Alexander at VTrans with his evaluation as well as an estimate from Dan Snow for \$2000 for temporary repairs to keep the bridge open through the upcoming winter.

Jody Normandeau spoke of her wish to preserve the historic bridge; not to have a generic cement or metal bridge as its replacement.

Mary Lou Schmidt asked Lee if the bridge can be reopened by October 1<sup>st</sup> as Elysian Hills' first day of tagging Christmas trees will be October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Cindy moved to hire Dan Snow to temporarily fix the bridge for his \$2000 bid and to close the bridge in the interim. On a second from Andrew, the motion passed unanimously.

Lee reported that the road striping will cost \$2000 for 3 ¾ miles. He is in the process of obtaining a second estimate.

Lee updated the Board on the WHIP program. Two culverts are scheduled to be replaced – a large one at the north end of Quarry Road and one at the end of Leonard Road, where it connects with Stickney Brook Road.

Lee reported that the new dump truck came through with no engine brake. J & B International has offered to split the cost of installing one 50/50 with the Town. The Town's cost will be approximately \$1250. On a motion from Andrew and second by Cindy, the Board approved this purchase by a 4 to 1 vote.

Lee spoke to the Board about the upcoming project on Stickney Brook Road along Bob Karg's property. A quote of \$1700 has been received from Travis Bristol for stumping and clearing trees.

The Board decided to have the Town Attorney draw up an agreement between the Town and Mr. Karg. On a motion by Paul and second from Lewis, the Board moved to have Lee contact Mr. Karg and if he's agreeable, Paul will contact Atty. Fisher to proceed.

The Board authorized the purchase of a cell phone for Lee's use.

Tom spoke to the Board about Dr. Grossman's concern of speeding along Waterman Road. The Board declined to pursue the lowering of the speed limit below 35 miles per hour.

Tom presented the update on the VELCO/Southern Loop. The Board has received notification of a formal change in the proposed plan to locate the new substation in an unused gravel pit in Newfane. The Wilson property on Camp Arden Road will be the only Dummerston property directly affected by this project. The Planning Commission and Selectboard will still submit letters as originally planned. Tom thanked the Farwells for their calmness during this process and their very hard work.

The Board reviewed the list of recommendations for the Energy Committee. They heard from David Shaw and Mark Kracum, who described their qualifications for serving as members of this committee. Cindy moved to appoint Cary Gaunt, David Shaw, Suzanne Weinberg and Alex Wilson to serve as the original four members of the Energy Committee for terms not to exceed three years. Paul seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the revised Personnel Policy. After a great deal of discussion, several more changes were made. Andrew will make the revisions and bring the policy back to the next Board meeting.

On a motion by Cindy and second from Andrew, the Board authorized Tom to sign the FY 2009 RERP budget requests.

The Board tabled a decision on the Certificate of Change to the 2007 Grand List until the next meeting; more information is needed from the Listers.

The Board reviewed a letter being sent to the Lydia Taft Pratt Library trustees from the Selectboard, reviewing some of their concerns and inviting them to attend the September 26<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting. Andrew moved to authorize Tom to sign the letter from the Board. Paul seconded the motion and it passed.

Paul expressed his concern regarding the Listers' budget. Tom will invite the three Listers to attend the September 26<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.

The Board recessed its regular meeting at 10:56PM to enter Executive Session to discuss a pending litigation matter. Paul Normandeau left the building before the Executive Session began.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:04PM. Lewis moved and Cindy seconded to authorize Atty. Bob Fisher to negotiate a settlement on a pending legal action. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06PM.

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September 12, 2007  
Approved

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Tom Bodett, Chairman

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Andrew MacFarland, Clerk

Minutes: Laurie Frechette, Administrative Assistant