

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

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

Also Present: Lee Chamberlin, Rich Cogliano, Margaret & Robert Evans, Sarah Evans, Richard Gunnip, Mark Kracum, Dwight Miller, Steve Mindel, Anna Piergentili, and Administrative Assistant, Laurie Frechette

On a motion from Andrew and second by Paul, the Board approved the minutes from November 20th.

On a motion from Paul and second by Lewis, the Board approved the payment of Warrants 12, 12A and 12P.

The Board recognized Sarah Evans and Anna Piergentili from the Recreation Board, who presented their proposal to hold a New Year's Eve celebration in Dummerston Center. They requested permission to construct a temporary ice skating rink on the Town Common. Andrew moved to approve their request and to encourage the use of Town property. Paul seconded the motion and it passed.

On a motion by Paul and second from Lewis, the Board appointed David Newell to the Recreation Board.

The Board recognized Dwight Miller, Margaret Evans and Robert Evans from the Dummerston Community Chest. Dwight gave a brief history of the Community Chest, which was started in 1942. Margaret read their intended letter of solicitation with a proposed list of recipients. Paul was asked to represent the Selectboard on this committee, which he gladly agreed to do. Cindy moved to enthusiastically approve the use of the Town's bulk mail stamp for their donation campaign; Andrew seconded the motion and it passed.

The Board recognized Richard Gunnip, who spoke to the Board about his interest in purchasing the parcel of property directly south of the Covered Bridge. This property is owned by the Town of Dummerston. Mr. Gunnip wishes to purchase this land to set up a mobile food concession stand 4-5 days per week. Paul expressed his opposition to commercial enterprise around the bridge and advised him of the Town's zoning regulations. Other Board members supported Paul's sentiments and said no to the potential purchase.

The Board recognized Planning Commission Chairman, Steve Mindel who gave an update on the search for a new Zoning Administrator. Five applications were received; all applicants were interviewed. The Planning Commission recommends hiring Gina Faro, who is a resident of Brattleboro. Andrew made a motion to hire Ms. Faro at an hourly rate of \$13.00. The motion was seconded by Lewis and it passed. Steve will contact Gina to offer her the position and Tom will invite her to the next Board meeting.

The site visit and public hearing for the Stickney Brook Road project were held on December 1st. Andrew moved to approve the relocation of Stickney Brook Road. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed. Paul will contact Jodi French to pursue the Road Findings.

Road Foreman, Lee Chamberlin advised the Board that a decision on the grant application for the Tucker Reed Road bridge will not take place until some time in January 2008.

Lee presented the Board with a quote of \$78,000 from Renaud Bros. for the replacement of the High Bridge Road bridge. Paul questioned replacing the entire bridge instead of just the wooden decking. Lee mentioned the state engineer's annual report that states the condition is serious/intolerable. Tom believes we should take the state's report at its face value and take action on this bridge. Much discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of having a concrete or a wooden bridge at this site.

Cindy moved to authorize Lee to pursue funding for the bridge, using Renaud Bros.' proposal. Andrew seconded the motion. Paul proposed a friendly amendment to pursue other options, which Cindy declined. Lewis moved and Andrew seconded to authorize Lee to pursue funding for the bridge, while pursuing other options. The motion passed by a 3-1 vote, with one abstention.

Paul questioned Lee about the lack of road lines at the west end of the Covered Bridge. Lee advised they should be painted as soon as the weather is warm enough, with dry roads.

Paul advised the Board that a mylar survey is still needed for Hopkins Road to be recorded in the Town records. He will contact Bill Fitzgerald to get one for both Hopkins Road and Sugar House Road.

The Board reviewed an email from VT Emergency Management regarding the requirement for towns to have a NIMS compliant EOP in order to be considered for the Emergency Generator Funding for 2007. Laurie was asked to look for the old report.

On a motion by Cindy and second from Lewis, the Board signed a request from Verizon to replace poles along Quarry Road.

Lewis updated the Board on the search for a new Emergency Management Director. Three applications have been received; interviews will be held next Thursday.

Cindy updated the Board on Arthur Phaneuf's zoning violation on Camp Arden Road. The court order had instructed him to have all scrap metal between the road and the back of his garage removed before July 6th and all scrap metal at the bottom of the bank in his back yard removed by November 2nd. Per Town Attorney, Bob Fisher, one option is for the Town to hire someone to remove the materials or to have Town employees do the clean-up. The Board does not want to pursue the second option. Lewis moved to contact Atty. Fisher to begin the proceedings for contempt of court and to place a lien on the property for unpaid fines (including permission from the judge to allow the Town to clean up the property at our discretion). Paul seconded the motion and it passed.

On a motion by Andrew and second from Cindy, the Board voted to authorize the Cemetery Committee to sell perpetual care in the Town cemeteries. Laurie was asked to draft the letter to the Committee.

Tom advised the Board that Suzanne Weinberg from the Energy Committee has completed a cursory pass of the application materials submitted to the Public Service Board for the proposed VELCO Southern Loop Project. She, on behalf of the Energy Committee has submitted several recommendations for the Town to include in their further testimony to the PSB. We have requested that the Planning and Conservation Commissions examine some of these specific points further.

Andrew moved to authorize the Board to send a letter to the Windham Housing Trust requesting a grant from the revolving loan fund monies for a housing assessment in Dummerston. Cindy seconded the motion and it passed. Andrew will draft the letter.

Cindy moved to send a letter to the Dummerston Handbook Committee to thank them for all of their hard work in producing such an incredible book. Andrew seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Cindy will send the letter for the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

December 19, 2007
Approved

Tom Bodett, Chairman

Andrew MacFarland, Clerk

Minutes: Laurie Frechette, Administrative Assistant