

**SELECTBOARD HEARING
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

November 19, 2008

This hearing regarding changes in the zoning by-laws was called to order at 7:13pm at the Dummerston Town Office in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members Present: Chair Lewis White, Cindy Jerome, Andrew MacFarland (at 7:30pm) and Jack Manix

Member Absent: Wayne Emery

Also Present: Greg Brown, Michelle Cherrier (at 7:27pm), Chris Garofolo from the *Brattleboro Reformer*, Steve Mindel, Micky Moos, Dan Normandeau (at 8:21pm), Paul Normandeau, Cindy Wilcox, John Wilcox, Lee Chamberlin and Laurie Frechette

There was a brief discussion on the changes in the zoning by-laws to exempt stone/brick walls and fences from setback requirements. Cindy moved to accept the proposed zoning by-law changes as outlined. Jack seconded the motion and it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The hearing was adjourned at 7:19pm.

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:20pm.

On a motion from Cindy and second by Jack, the Board approved the minutes from November 5th & 14th along with payment of Warrants 11, 11P and CF-7 on a 3-0 vote. Warrant 11 was amended to include an \$1145.06 to Windham Regional Commission for work completed on the 2008 Municipal Planning Grant. The funds from the grant were received in this afternoon's mail.

The Board recognized Greg Brown, who spoke about the shortage of water at Charette's Trailer Park on RT 5. Currently the park is supplied with water from three wells located across RT 5 in the Dutton Pines state forest. The total output is only ½ gallon per minute for fourteen trailers. The VT State Housing Authority (VSHA) is now trucking in 6000 gallons of water twice a week. Several possible solutions to the problem are being investigated, both short term and long term, including drilling new wells on adjacent properties and possibly hooking up to Brattleboro's water system. Jack expressed his strong reservations to the latter option.

Cindy spoke of the ongoing need for affordable housing in Dummerston and the importance of Charette's in that role.

Greg advised that he will keep the Board updated on the status of this situation.

The Board recognized Micky Moos and John Wilcox from the Brattleboro Area Drop-In Center board, who spoke about the Drop-In Center's increasing need for funding. They currently serve approximately 7100 per year. In the last year, 106 adults and 52 children from Dummerston were among that number; about 2% of the total. Currently the Town of Dummerston appropriates \$100 of the annual budget as a donation to the Drop-In Center. Recognizing the increased need for funds and acknowledging the importance of their role in the community, the Board recommended that they submit a petition for an article to be included on the Town Meeting Warning for an increase in funding.

The Board then recognized Michelle Cherrier, one of Dummerston's representatives to the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD). She spoke to the Board about the District's increasing costs and advised them that Dummerston is projected to see an increase of \$12,037 for FY 2010 from

\$17,431 to \$29,468 (59%). Jack questioned why there isn't a surplus because of the high income from recycling. Much discussion ensued. Board members want George Murray , WSWMD's executive director to attend a meeting in the very near future to explain the extreme increase in the budget. Jack reassured Michelle that the Board didn't want to "shoot the messenger" and thanked her for her hard work.

Lee Chamberlin presented the Road Foreman's report. He updated the Board on the recent meeting with Deb Forrett and Peter Schor regarding the possible change on upper Beaver Pond Road from Class 3 to Class 4. They are agreeable to the change, providing that the town will grade the road once a year. Lee will check with VLCT on the legalities of maintaining a Class 4 road.

Lee presented the Board with a list of potential bridge/culvert projects that will use structures funds.

The Board reviewed a request from VLCT to sign a resolution to request increased weight limits on interstate highways. On a motion from Cindy and second by Andrew, the Board voted 4-0 to sign the resolution.

The Board reviewed a report from Town Health Officer, Mary Lafayette regarding the failed septic system at 270 West Street.

The Board reviewed a request from Cmd. Sgt. Major Lou Lertola to increase the Town's property tax exemption for qualifying disabled veterans from \$10,000 to \$40,000. No action was taken; Laurie was asked to look up the state statute on this issue.

The Board declined a request from John & Karen Abel to refund their \$83 zoning appeal fee. Laurie was asked to notify Mr. & Mrs. Abel of the Board's decision.

Jack reported on his recent visit to Arthur Wood, Jr.'s property on Stickney Brook Road to check on the welfare of his horses. The shelter is in the process of being built.

On a motion from Jack and second from Cindy, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the proposed changes to the Personnel Policy.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.

Approved

Lewis White, Chairman

Cindy Jerome, Clerk

Submitted by: Laurie Frechette, Administrative Assistant

