

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

December 3, 2008

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

Members Present: Chair Lewis White, Vice-Chair Andrew MacFarland and Wayne Emery

Members Absent: Cindy Jerome and Jack Manix

Also Present: VT State Police Lt. Kraig LaPorte, Town Auditors Linda Aiken, Maria Glabach and Jean Newell; Tom Bodett, Michelle Cherrier, Michael Diaferio, Pam McFadden, Steve Mindel, George Murray, Lee Chamberlin and Laurie Frechette

On a motion from Andrew and second by Wayne, the Board approved the minutes from November 19th & 25th along with payment of Warrants 12 and 12P on a 3-0 vote.

The Board recognized Lt. Kraig LaPorte from the VT State Police who recently replaced Rick Hopkins as commander of the Brattleboro barracks. He reported that he currently has nine full-time officers on staff. Motor vehicle violations are the primary complaint of area towns. Wayne questioned the revenue that is received by the town for traffic tickets that are issued by the State Police and the Sheriff's Department. Lt. LaPorte advised that the revenues are the same, no matter who issues the ticket. No revenues are sent to the town for tickets issued on I-91.

Lewis requested a quote for an hourly rate for the State Police to contract with the town to provide additional police protection. Lt. LaPorte agreed to provide a quote but stated that he would be hesitant to sign a contract with the limited personnel resources that are currently available.

The Board recognized Town Clerk, Pam McFadden and Michael Diaferio, who requested that the Selectboard place an article on the 2009 Town Meeting warning to increase the property tax exemption for disabled veterans from \$10,000 to up to \$40,000. Town Lister, Jean Newell voiced her opposition to this request, stating that it would remove \$160,000 annually from the Grand List, as there are currently four qualifying veterans in Dummerston. On a motion from Andrew and second by Wayne, the Board voted 3-0 to place the article on the 2009 Town Meeting warning.

The Board recognized George Murray, the Executive Director of the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) and Michelle Cherrier, one of Dummerston's representatives to the WSWMD board. Mr. Murray presented the Board with the revised budget for FY 2010. The WSWMD board voted to begin charging a \$20 per ton surcharge. Dummerston's assessment for FY 2010 will be \$10,469, a decrease of \$6962. He went over the planned expenditure cuts that have been made in order to trim \$100,000 from the budget. He also explained that the bottom dropped out of the recyclable market at the beginning of November, reducing their revenue from \$60,000-70,000 per month to \$26,000 per month. The public budget meeting is scheduled for December 11th.

Planning Commission Chairman, Steve Mindel spoke to the Board about the appointment of a new Zoning Administrator. There were fourteen applications received; they interviewed three of the applicants. Their recommendation is to appoint Charlotte Annis. Lewis recommended tabling the appointment until next week's budget work session when the full Board will be present. Paul Normandeau has agreed to continue as the acting Zoning Administrator.

Lee Chamberlin presented the Road Foreman's report. He and the Board reviewed a letter of complaint received from Victoria Budasi and Barbara Morris regarding the winter maintenance of the upper end of Hague Road. Lewis and Lee will meet with Ms. Budasi and Ms. Morris to discuss their concerns.

Lee presented the Board with information received from VLCT regarding a state statute allowing towns to not maintain portions of Class 3 roads in the winter. Andrew moved to apply this statute to the middle of Canoe Brook Road, middle of Nourse Hollow Road, upper end of Bear Hill Road, and upper end of Beaver Pond Road. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The Board and Lee discussed the status of Dummerston Station Road. It is a Class 3 road up to the I-91 underpass; then it becomes a Class 4 road. On a motion by Wayne and second from Andrew, the Board voted 3-0 to notify property owners on Dummerston Station Road that this will be the last year that the Class 4 section will be maintained in the winter.

Lee spoke to the Board about the state regulations requiring the highway crew to wear steel-toed boots. The Board authorized Lee to spend up to \$130 per person; taking the money from the miscellaneous fund.

The Board reviewed a request from Marie Caduto at the Agency of Natural Resources to include \$1000 in the FY 2010 budget for matching funds for the Rock River Access improvement project grant application. On a motion by Wayne and second by Andrew, the Board voted 3-0 to deny the request.

The Board reviewed a request from Mary Ann Runge to appropriate \$2000 from the Miller Fund for financial assistance for thirty students to participate in the Winter Sports program at the school. Lewis voiced his strong opposition to the request, stating that since the School Board has made participation in this program mandatory for all students, it should be their responsibility to provide financing. Andrew moved and Wayne seconded to approve the request. Town Auditors Linda Aiken, Maria Glabach and Jean Newell spoke of the intent of the original bequest of \$29,000, which was to provide financial assistance to the needy children of Dummerston. The current balance in the Miller Fund is \$111,498.71. After much discussion, the motion was denied by a 3-0 vote.

Jean Newell voiced her opinion that the \$955 annual contribution to Youth Services should come out of the General Fund, not the Miller Fund.

On a motion from Andrew and second by Wayne, the Board voted 3-0 to sign the Dog Warrant.

On a motion from Andrew and second by Wayne, the Board voted 3-0 to sign the contract with Rescue, Inc. for FY 2010.

Tom Bodett expressed his interest in running for the Selectboard in March

On a motion by Andrew and second from Wayne, the Board entered Executive Session at 9:39pm to discuss a personnel matter. Laurie was excused from the meeting and left the building. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:44pm with no decisions being made.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Approved

Lewis White, Chairman

Andrew MacFarland, Vice-Chair

Submitted by: Laurie Frechette, Administrative Assistant

