

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 27, 2023

This meeting was called to order by Zeke Goodband at 6:00 pm at the Town Office in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members present: Zeke Goodband, Maria Glabach, Lewis White, Alex Wilson, Todd Davidson
Members absent:

Also present: Chip & Carlene Hellus, Gail Sorenson, Catie Berg, David Shaw, Leon Dunbar, Larry Pratt, Dan Ridlehoover, Paul Dery (on Zoom), Lee Chamberlin, Mike Mrowicki, Peter Kelleher-BCTV

Minutes:

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from December 13, 2023 & December 20, 2023.

Warrants:

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to approve the payment of warrants 13 & 13P.

ARPA Funding: (moved down on the agenda)

Public Comments: (moved to New Business)

Representative Mike Mrowicki

Road Foreman's Report:

Lewis reported that the crew has been working on cleaning culverts. Chip Hellus spoke to the importance of keeping culverts clean and keeping leaves blown out of ditches.

Correspondence for Information: No discussion

Correspondence for Discussion and/or Action:

Update regarding Salmon Brook erosion, Emergency Watershed Protection Program: No update, Todd's contact is out until mid-January.

Lewis addressed the email the Board received from Beverly Tier. Gail Sorenson asked if the Board intended to respond to Beverly. Todd will respond.

New Business:

The Board set the public hearing for the proposed Zoning Bylaw revisions for, Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 7:00pm to 7:30pm. Maria will send a notice to Laurie to post and place an ad in the Commons.

Public Comment: 6:25-6:55

Representative Mike Mrowicki arrived and addressed the Board on several topics – workforce, housing, climate change, health care, declaration of inclusion, transportation, and Dummerston DMV.

ARPA Funding:

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to authorize the following projects for the Fire Department: \$6,021.00 for helmets, \$319.38 for Electrical Panel, and \$3,454.00 for pagers. Total Authorized \$9,794.38 from ARPA funds.

New Business:

On a motion by Lewis and second from Maria the Board voted 5-0 to sign the new contract for the fire truck. New purchase price is \$469,411. Lewis will sign the paperwork, with Laurie to notarize it on Thursday 12/28.

(Budget):

The Board discussed at length the budget and capital requests from the Fire Department. The fire department presented a proposed budget, which the Board would like to review. There was much confusion over operating budget items versus capital items. Some Board members will attend the fire department meeting on 1/9/2024 6:30 pm at the center fire station. The meeting will be warned as a special Selectboard meeting.

New Business:

ARPA Updates & Discussion: An update from WRC/VLCT was received encouraging Boards to authorize funds prior to March 31, 2024. At this time, the Board is waiting on estimates for the Highway structures project on Park Laughton Road and installation costs to install the Covered Bridge decking. Catie Berg requested that the Board respond to the ARPA request Dummerston Cares submitted. Zeke will contact them.

Julianne Eagan, Dummerston School Principal would like for the Leadership Council to give a 10-15 minute presentation at Town Meeting. Zeke will contact Julianne and let her know the consensus of the Board was in favor of a brief presentation.

On a motion by Maria and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to recess the meeting and convene as the Liquor Control Board at 8:23 pm.

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to approve the Tobacco Substitute Endorsement Renewal, the Tobacco License Renewal, and the 2nd Class Liquor License Renewal for the Circle K Vermont.

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 4-0 with Zeke abstaining to approve the Special Events Permit request form Scott Farm for 2/25/2024, 11am-4:30pm.

On a motion by Maria and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to reconvene the regular meeting at 8:25 pm.

On a motion by Maria and second from Todd the Board voted 4-0 with Lewis abstaining to accept, with regret, the resignation from Lewis White as EMD and on the Cemetery Committee.

Catie Berg, representing Dummerston Cares, requested time at a meeting with the Board to discuss a declaration of inclusion statement. Catie will email the Board a petition that is circulating. The Board told her to pick a date and let Zeke know to be added to the agenda.

Unfinished Business: None

On a motion by Maria and second from Lewis the Board voted 5-0 to recess the meeting and start the budget work session at 8:37 pm. BCTV will remain to film.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Lee handed out an updated structures inventory. Lee spoke to the Board regarding highway wages and feels they are still below in comparison to other towns. He also strongly encouraged the Board to consider increases. He would also like to see the Board return to budgeting for 180 hours of overtime per employee. The current proposal for overtime is 120 hours.

(Alex left the meeting at 8:50 pm)

The Board increased wages for the Highway crew.

The Board updated the County Tax line in the General Fund budget.

Maria will update worksheets with the changes.

On a motion by Maria and second from Lewis the Board voted 4-0 to reconvene the meeting.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Maria made the motion and second from Lewis, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Approved

Zeke Goodband, Chair

Lewis White, Vice-Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Clerk