

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2024

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

Members absent: Todd Davidson

Also present: Gail Sorenson, Jeanne Bristol, Lyle Holiday, Catie Berg, Bill Bandish, Dena Marger, Peter Kelleher-BCTV

Minutes:

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from December 27, 2023 & January 3, 2024.

Warrants:

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 4-0 to approve the payment of warrants 14 & 14P. Warrant 14 included \$12,500.00 for the Community Center from ARPA Funds.

ARPA Funding: None

Public Comments:

Library Trustee, Lyle Holiday, spoke with the Board regarding their budget request. Zeke stated that the Board had budgeted \$22,040.00. This amount included funding for 16 hours for the Librarian. The Librarian, Dena Marger, spoke regarding the interest in joining Catamount, which is an inter-library system. However, the Board is concerned that, in order to join, the library would only be able to be staffed by a paid librarian. The system does not allow for any volunteers.

Dena questioned her pay rate increase. The Board stated her rate is set by the Trustees, but the proposed budget includes a 10% increase. The same increase proposed for the Town Office staff.

Bill Bandish, requested the Town help him facilitate the removal of two trees on his neighbor's property. The Board felt he should talk with his neighbor. Bill disagreed, and asked if the Board could write a letter to the neighbor. Zeke asked how the Board felt about this. Lewis stated the Town should not be involved. Maria abstained, as she and family have done extensive work over the years for Bill. Zeke and Alex were wondering if an "introduction" letter to the neighbor would be okay. Lewis said he would speak with the neighbor.

Road Foreman's Report:

Lee will complete the AOT Mileage Certificate which is due by 2/20/2024.

(the following item was added to agenda)

The Board opened the following bids for the Park Laughton Road structure project:

A.S. Clark	\$259,500
Bellco	\$176,500
Evans	\$206,823

Lee will review the bids and make a recommendation to the Board. The bid will be awarded at the next meeting on January 24th. ARPA funds have been earmarked for this project.

Correspondence for Information: No discussion**Correspondence for Discussion and/or Action:**

Update regarding Salmon Brook erosion, Emergency Watershed Protection Program: Todd will update the Board on January 24th, as one resident is interested in pursuing the program.

Zeke will talk with Roger and attend the DRB site visit on January 13th regarding the Town's right of way to access the gravel pit through ABF yard. The public hearing is January 16th.

The Board has received several emails from Catie Berg regarding Dummerston Cares Declaration of Inclusion (DOI) to be on the warning for town meeting. Catie would like the Board to set up a Zoom meeting with Al Wakefield to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the DOI. The Board will set up a zoom link during the January 24th meeting. Catie stated that a petition has been circulated to add this to the Town Meeting Warning and this meeting may help answer questions. She would like the Board to possibly take action on the 24th and the article could be pulled from the warning if favorable passed.

New Business:**(the following item was added to the agenda)**

The consensus of the Board was to have the Grange to offer soup and sandwiches at Town Meeting.

ARPA Updates – None

The Board is considering investing the Farmland Protection Fund monies in an investment account, to earn more money, in hopes to help alleviate some of the annual funding request. The Board will wait until after Town Meeting to discuss with the new Treasurer. Alex did state the Farmland Committee was not happy with reducing the budget request.

The Board is planning a Pre-Town Meeting/Candidates Night for February 21st. Zeke will contact Moderator, Cindy Jerome and the Community Center to see if that date works for them.

Unfinished Business: None

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 4-0 to recess the meeting and start the budget work session at 7:25 pm. BCTV will remain to film.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Board was unable to meet with the Fire Department as scheduled on Tuesday, January 9th, due to weather and a fire call.

The Board is waiting for the Fire Departments proposed budget for FY25 and actual numbers for FY23.

Maria will prepare two capital plans for comparison – one with Fire Department capital items and one without. Without the Fire Dept. capital items the amount to be raised could be reduced.

The Board discussed the Farmland Protection Fund request of \$7,000.00. The Board will put in the proposed budget \$5,000.00, with the intent to invest the fund to possibly earned the balance from interest on the investment.

The Board did not change the amount in the budget for the Library.

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 4-0 to reconvene the meeting at 7:50 pm.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Lewis made the motion and second from Maria, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Approved

Zeke Goodband, Chair

Lewis White, Vice-Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Clerk