

UNAPPROVED

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2016

The Selectboard meeting was called to order by Zeke Goodband at 5:28 p.m. at the Town Offices in Dummerston, Vermont. Following a motion by Steve that was seconded by Joe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session. Action thereon was deferred until the regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting. Following another motion by Steve that was seconded by Joe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 5:52.

The regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting was called to order by Zeke Goodband at 6:00 p.m. Members present: Steve Glabach, Zeke Goodband, Jerelyn Wilson, Hugh Worden, and Joe Cook.

Also present: BCTV, Jean Newell, Harold Newell, Steve Tavella, Cindy Levine, Paul Chapman, Theresa Chapman, Maria Glabach, Diane Petrie, and Lt. Tim Oliver with the Vermont State Police.

The Selectboard agreed to add correspondence received from Richard Virkstis to the agenda under Correspondence for Discussion.

The meeting began with Tim Oliver introducing himself as the new station commander for the Vermont State Police Barracks which were recently opened in Westminster. Tim encouraged everyone there to visit the new facility. Steve asked Tim to address the recent rash of break-ins in the area, and speeding. Tim explained that their barracks cover a large area from the Massachusetts border almost as far north as White River Junction. If we have concerns with speeding in a specific area, Tim can assign a trooper to monitor traffic at that location. Tim explained that having citizens be observant is the best way to prevent break-ins. If a home is broken into, Tim encouraged residents to call the State Police before entering their homes. The Vermont State Police is the default agency for addressing criminal activity. They have 21 troopers assigned to the Westminster barracks. Life safety is their greatest priority. The Westminster barracks can be reached for non-emergency matters at 722-4600.

On a motion by Steve and seconded by Jerelyn, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the meeting minutes of August 17th. Hugh abstained.

On a motion by Steve and seconded by Joe, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the payment of Warrants 5 and 5P.

Under the Road Foreman's Report, Steve explained that the crack sealing bid that the Selectboard had accepted was on a per gallon price. We awarded an amount that will almost all of the Town's roads and the Town Office parking lot.

The next order of business was the Wickopee Hill Road traffic study which was undertaken by the Windham Regional Commission. Traffic tapes were set up in two locations. At the first one, the average speed was 25 mph, with 85% of vehicles traveling less than 29 mph. At the second location the average speed was 21 mph, with 85% of the vehicles traveling less than 27 mph. Steve suggested that we may want to post the entire road for 25 mph. The next step in changing the speed limit on that road is a traffic road survey. Hugh agreed to undertake that road survey with Lee Chamberlin. If the Selectboard does decide to change the speed limit on Wickopee Hill Road, it will be effective 60 days after our vote. Steve Tavella spoke about how activities such as horseback riding occur only at certain times. He said that the second traffic tape was located near where residents pick up their mail, and therefore did not accurately reflect the speed on the road.

The next order of business was parking in the West Dummerston village. Hugh explained that he had written to the Development Review Board as a resident concerning the addition to a home in the village, and reminded that board to consider that addition's impact on parking. Hugh lives in the village, and has no monetary interest in the matter, so he has no conflict of interest. John Gregory had also written to Alan McBean with the DRB expressing his concerns with parking in the village. Alan forwarded John's e-mail to the Selectboard. Parking problems have become worse in recent years as some property owners have converted their properties to rental use. The only parking ordinance now in effect concerns snow removal. Zeke said that after the DRB addresses the addition in question, parking problems in the village may be referred to the planning commission to consider changes to the town plan. The Selectboard can review recent DRB decisions concerning properties in the village and their impact on parking. Hugh agreed to speak with one of those property owners. Steve will review our state's statutes concerning parking on town roads.

Harold Newell reminded the Selectboard of Rescue Inc's upcoming meeting on September 8th. Jerelyn agreed to attend that meeting. She also agreed to attend the meeting on September 6th of the Windham Solid Waste Management District concerning their net-metering project.

The Selectboard discussed Richard Virkstis' letter expressing concerns with traffic monitoring on Town roads. Steve said that he hopes that we will request more time for traffic monitoring from the sherriff's office in the upcoming budget session, and that sheriff's deputies need to monitor traffic on many town roads. Steve will invite Sheriff Keith Clark to meet with us in October.

\$13,110 has now been raised for the construction of the new fire station in Dummerston Center.

Joe spoke about his conversations with representatives at TD Bank concerning the investment of town funds, risk, and the tension between maximizing the return on those funds and local investment. Following a motion by Steve that was seconded by Joe, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the investment policies for town funds and restricted funds that Joe had drafted.

Jerelyn distributed a performance review form for town employees. The Board agreed to distribute that form to our road foreman, zoning administrator and selectboard assistant.

Kathleen Hathaway had her initial performance review with the Selectboard in executive session, and received a satisfactory evaluation. The Selectboard agreed unanimously to give Kathleen a raise to \$16.00 per hour, effective with the current pay period.

Steve agreed to write the next article for the Views, which will be due on September 27th.

Matt Mann is no longer working for the Windham Regional Commission, and has asked the Selectboard for a letter of recommendation. Zeke agreed to write that letter.

Following a motion by Steve that was seconded by Hugh, there being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25.

Approved

Zeke Goodband, Chair

Joe Cook, Clerk

Submitted by: Joe Cook, Clerk