

Minutes of West Fairlee Selectboard Regular Meeting
July 19, 2010

Present from the Selectboard: Bonnie Cray, Nate Pero, Jim Brigham, David Butch Moore, Sharon Petersen

Visitors: John Blake, Jonathan Blake, Peter Moore

The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm at the Community Building multi-purpose room by Nate Pero.

Visitors: None.

Minutes: Motion by Pero to approve the minutes of July 5, 2010 as amended by Blake. The board will hold a special meeting to address the tax sale discussed in the July 5, 2010 minutes. Brigham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Hear and Act on the Reports of Town Officers and Committees: None.

Roads: Richard Shearer

Mr. Shearer was mailed a request for an agreement for the discharge of water from a culvert onto his property. Mr. Shearer has several properties and would like a meeting to discuss. The Blakes will meet him on site.

Local Enforcement of Speed Limit on State Highway

The board clerk provided a draft copy of the ordinance for review by the board. Cray read the ordinance. Pero moved to adopt the ordinance. Brigham seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. Pero discussed the speeding issues in West Fairlee with Jason B. Gould, Deputy Sheriff of the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Wild Hill Slide Update

No Update. A review of the Town's cash flow and the cost of work will be done to determine where the funds for the repair will come from.

Culvert Repairs

A property owner has been contacted for permission to access property on Beanville Road for culvert repairs.

Better Back Roads Structures Grant

Cray looked up information on the grant and obtained a copy of the application for a maximum amount of \$10,000. The budget includes \$2,500. The application is due October 29, 2010 for the next fiscal year.

Peter Moore Right of Way Permit

Mr. Moore presented the board with a right of way permit for ditching work and road resurfacing. Mr. Moore questioned what liability the permit holder takes on upon submitting a permit for approval. Mr. Moore read a portion of the permit putting liability on the permit holder and indicated that he is not willing to take on the liability. The permit language was discussed. Mr. Moore also indicated that the Class 4 Road Policy provided to him includes ditching maintenance by the Town. Cray indicated that the policy provided is outdated but that the updated policy still includes ditching requirements for the Town. Cray read the updated policy. The board discussed the Town's obligation to maintain ditches on Class 4 roads. Mr. Moore indicated that ditching is necessary. Petersen and Cray asked the Blakes if the current road

condition would allow room for ditching. Blake discussed potential work including culvert replacement and ditching. Blake also indicated that large rocks will need to be removed and replaced with material. Petersen asked if water bars could be installed. Blake discussed the issues with discharging on private properties and installation. Blake suggested incorporating adding material with the ditch installations/maintenance. Mr. Moore offered to add material if the Town will complete the ditching and agreed to work with the Blakes (J&J Blake Excavating). Mr. Moore indicated that it has been awhile since ditch-cleaning was done on the road making the project larger than if annual cleaning were completed. Blake suggested meeting with Mr. Moore and the board to perform a site visit. The site visit was set for Thursday morning at 8:00 am at Mr. Moore's property. Blake discussed the additional Class 4 road ditching/culvert maintenance issues.

Mr. Moore and Butch Moore contacted E911 and Hanover dispatch regarding the access points where there are no connecting routes. Moore indicated that the roads will also need to be identified as east or west and appropriately signed. Cray indicated that the Town has no more budget for signs. Butch Moore suggested adding EAST or WEST to the existing signs.

Seasonal Class 4 Road Closing

Pero spoke with Deputy Sheriff Gould regarding the road closing signs and suggested labeling the road as "Closed to Non-Residents" up to driveways and "Closed" after all active driveways/property. Cray asked if any other Towns have closed roads. Pero indicated that West Fairlee has previously closed class 4 roads. Blake indicated that there may be notification requirements prior to closing a road. Cray will contact Steve Gerome for guidance.

Road Signs

Cray indicated that the Town is over budget on road signs. Blake indicated that the Town has some signs and explained the process for installing the signs. Pero discussed road signs with Deputy Sheriff Gould who offered to drive around West Fairlee to point out where new signs and/or pavement painting may be beneficial. The Town would have to pay for the service. Pero reviewed some of the suggestions and also discussed some of the patrol changes for implementation in West Fairlee by the Orange County Sheriff's department.

Blake mentioned that the Austin Road sign has been taken. King Hill Road also needs a sign.

Old Business:

Permanent Town Office Relocation

A meeting was held on July 13, 2010 and a survey was taken. The survey ballots will be tallied tomorrow.

Town Cash Flow

Will be worked on with the Blakes towards the close of the meeting.

New Business:

Set 2010 Town Tax Rate

The Town Tax Rate is set by dividing the the Grand List (total property value) by the sum of Budget and Appropriations.

Education Tax Rates:

Non-residential: 1.5082

Homestead: 1.6040

The total budget and appropriations is: \$380,157 and Property values: \$617,734.05

Municipal Tax Rate: 0.6158

Combined School and Municipal Tax Rates:

Non-residential: 2.1240

Homestead: 2.2918

Rates are presented per \$100 in value.

Cray moved to set the above tax rate. Moore seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

Animal Control and Crime

Many residents in West Fairlee have been experiencing crime. A neighborhood watch meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in Creative Spirit (Community Building). The Sheriff will attend the meeting.

Pero provided those present with a copy of the Orange County Sheriff's Department Statement form to report crime in West Fairlee. Pero indicated that if the form is filled out and submitted appropriately, action will be taken; however, presence of the reporter may be required in court.

250th Anniversary of the Founding of Fairlee Celebration

On July 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. a meeting will be held in the Green Room at the Fairlee Town Hall to discuss the celebration. Fairlee, West Fairlee and Orford were all established at the same time before Orford and West Fairlee divided.

Sign Orders: Pero moved to sign orders. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Correspondence: The board received refused correspondence for an infraction of the junk vehicle ordinance. A ticket will be issued after non-compliance is established. The board will contact the property owner. Brigham moved to accept Elizabeth Upton on the certificate of deposit and checking account for the cemetery commission. The motion was second and the vote passed unanimously. The board received notice that the fees from the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District has increased. The board also received notification that the West Fairlee paving grant was not approved. Cray will review the documentation on grants available for Park and Rides.

Financial Statements: The financial statements for June 2010 were discussed. The board will meet with the Blakes prior to review. The budgets for signs and Community Building maintenance have been exceeded.

The alarm system phone line was split at some point and will need to be re-installed for a stand only line for the alarm. The phone line installation date is scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2010. Pero questioned who spliced into which line and who should pay for the new line installation. Pero indicated that the Town will not pay for two lines. Cray indicated that she does not believe that the Town is currently paying for a line. Scheduling of the installation was discussed. Moore will follow up.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Tax Sale Town Bidding on Properties, Beebee Road Hearing, Solid Waste Collection, Seasonal Class 4 Road Closing, 250th Anniversary Celebration for the Founding of Fairlee

Upcoming Events:

The board urges residents to respond to the Town Plan survey recently sent out to all Town residents in whole or in part by July 23, 2010.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting, July 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Creative Spirit space in the West Fairlee Community Building.

CANCELLED: Potential Addition of the Bradford Forest to the Brushwood Community Forest Previously Scheduled for July 21, 2010.

Motion by Moore, at 8:20 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Brigham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Lewis-Poulin
Selectboard Clerk