

Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday July 15, 2013

Present: Beverly Ash, Corey Austin, Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt

Visitors: Kevin Petrone, Gene Lottman

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Minutes: Fred Cook moved to approve the minutes of July 1, 2013 regular meeting as presented; Beverly Ash seconded; approved.

Review Financial Statements: Rhonda has sent out the financial statements; the Town is on track with expenses; it was noted that the electricity bill is down; trending at about 2/3 of last year's expense.

Roads: The arbitration agreement was added as a cover sheet to the Highway Maintenance Contract per advice from the Town's attorney, and the rate sheet was added; it was signed at the meeting.

Update, Better Back Roads grant: The grant application was submitted for \$5200 (total project), requested \$4200 (80/20 grant) for enhancements to the road project on Wild Hill. The decision will be made by Aug 5.

Wild Hill project: The culvert was done last week; the guardrail will be removed on Thursday so that BlakTop can get in there on Friday. When the guardrails are replaced, they'll use what "used" they can, including bringing in more used from elsewhere. The ledge removal will happen early next week.

Expenses estimated thus far for the Beanville and Wild Hill projects come to about \$144,000 not including the guardrails; there's a total available of \$210,000 including the Town's \$35,000. The balance of grant funds will be used for extending distance paved. The current expense note will be ready to sign to provide the working capital; everything is falling into place.

King Hill drainage - The flat portion is not too bad right now (it does get muddy in the spring); the upper portion is pretty good where homeowners have contributed to the ditching. The 4th Class road dilemma: the Town is responsible for bridges, culverts, SOME drainage. When he's mowing, Jonathan Blake will cut the trees back and clean out the cutouts so that things will be able to dry out better.

Old Business:

Community Building Renovations – G.R. Porter has submitted a change order for an additional \$5,000 for removal of extra concrete (it could not be known how much there was until the project was started). Hoyt forwarded it to Jay and to Tim Schaal for advice and comments. The

Community Building capital fund has contingency funds to cover it, and this is probably the worst of it.

Delinquent dog registration list – The Selectboard Clerk will handle the letter; Hoyt will forward the Word file of the letter and the list – deadline will be the close of business on Wednesday, August 7.

Discussion of mutual aid from Thetford Police Department – The Thetford Police cannot commit to any specific coverage arrangement for mutual aid until other personnel issues are resolved. If EMS personnel require back-up and State Police or Sheriff's Department are unavailable, Thetford will respond during business hours. We will continue to work toward a more formal agreement.

New Business:

Fred Cook moved to approve Rhonda's request for a transfer of \$25,000 from the Tax Anticipation Note to the general fund; Corey Austin seconded; approved.

Other Business/Agenda Items (to be acted on at next regular meeting):

Sheldon Miller fund: It has been thought that, since the establishment of Rivendell that proceeds in the Sheldon Miller Fund could not be spent. However, Town Clerk Rhonda Cook discovered an unrecorded Probate document that is part of the Sheldon Miller. It says that the proceeds received from the sale of such timber shall be used for educational purposes in connection with the West Fairlee schools and Thetford Academy in such a manner as the Selectmen of the Town shall deem appropriate. Hoyt suggested that, based on this new information, advice should be sought from Town Attorney, Paul Gillies.

Ash moved to sign the orders, Austin seconded; approved

Review Correspondence

A survey for selectboard members was received to determine whether towns should be required to have a plan for providing EMS services. Corey will complete and return the survey.

Next meeting, discuss the contract with Orange County Sheriff's Department

Upcoming Events - Board of Civil Authority Meeting Tax Appeals -- July 22, 5:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.