

Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday December 3, 2012

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

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Minutes: Cook moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2012 regular Selectboard meeting as written; Ash seconded; approved.

Reports of Town Committees:

County Forester, Dave Paganelli, recommended via email that the Town defer its logging contract with Slayton until spring to see if lumber prices rebound. Fred Cook and Guy Wilson both witnessed evidence of tree theft in Brushwood Forest. Cook will contact Wilson to file a report with the Vermont State Police.

Cook provided a brief update on recent activities of the Tri-Town Lake Fairlee Committee; they continue to gather information which to be presented at Town Meeting. A permitting official from the State will attend the next committee meeting to provide an overview of potential requirements related to repair or replacement of the dam. The group is still investigating how best to proceed, as well as, discussing possible funding strategies through public/private partnerships including grants.

Roads

The unusually warm weather has enabled some “summer” road projects to continue.

Old Business

Community Building Renovations: Hoyt noted that because of implications for the budget and other planning, the Selectboard needed to move forward to select a contractor from the recent bid process. Ash expressed concern that the project be completed in a timely fashion. Hoyt noted that each contractor included the estimated number of days to complete the project on the bid form. Cook related a good experience working with the second lowest bidder, but because of a significant price difference supported the choice of the low bidder, G.R Porter who is also well-regarded. Since financing of more than a single year requires approval of the voters, Hoyt volunteered to contact Town Attorney Paul Gilles for advice on language for the contract with Porter which reflects the contingency of the Town Meeting vote. In addition, Gilles will be asked to review draft language for the article regarding financing which will appear on the Town Meeting Warning. Action was deferred until guidance has been received from Gilles.

FY 2013 Town Budget: Hoyt distributed the latest working draft of the budget, and discussion centered on various payroll line items and suggested contributions to capital reserve accounts. Hoyt, citing a recently-released VLCT compensation survey and the fact that no raises have been given for several years, expressed support of a modest increase to the Town Clerk’s compensation. She noted that the Treasurer’s compensation is based on 1% of the Grand List

and continues to lag several thousand dollars behind the State mean and median for the position; and that while the delinquent tax collector is entitled to all penalties and interest Rhonda Cook opted for a salary meaning that the Town receives the additional revenues. An increase in the Lister's budget reflects additional hours required in the first quarter of the year to complete the town-wide reappraisal, but should return to previous levels in 2014.

Violations of Junk and Junk Vehicle Ordinance: Ash presented a draft letter to be sent to violators on Stevens Road. Hoyt suggested that the language was too broad and might make it difficult to enforce. A new draft focusing on the number of unregistered vehicles including campers at the property will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Transfer of Cemetery Funds: As recommended in last year's outside audit, funds previously administered by the Cemetery Commission have been transferred to Town reserve accounts. This action was deferred until current CDs reached their maturation dates. As it has in the past, the Town will continue to rely on the members of the Cemetery Commission to plan for and administer the needs of the Town's cemeteries. Hoyt noted that articles affirming establishment of both a Cemetery Commission Fund and a Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund will have to be included on the Town Meeting Warning.

New Business

Lister software update: The Lister's Office software package failed recently and requires an upgrade. Ash moved to authorize the Lister's purchase of software; Austin seconded; and the motion was approved. The Town will no longer provide faxes, copies, or other IT services not related to official Town business.

Central VT Humane Society contract: Austin moved to renew the Town's contract with Central Vermont Humane Society; Cook seconded; and the motion was approved.

Sign Orders: Ash moved to sign the orders; Cook seconded; approved.

Adjournment: Ash moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.; Austin seconded, approved.