

MINUTES
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday February 17, 2014

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

Visitors: Janet Austin, Candy Malinoski

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

Ash moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2013 regular meeting as presented; Cory Austin seconded; passed.

Reports of Town Officers and Committees:

The **Conservation Commission (CC)** submitted a request to the Selectboard via email to approve expenditure of up to \$1,000 from the Brushwood Forest Fund to seek legal advice concerning a right of way across forest land to a landlocked parcel known as the Vaida parcel. Sale of the parcel is up in the air at the present time, but the CC is concerned that they might have to move quickly. Fred Cook, also an ex officio member of the CC, summarized the CC's findings to date, and felt it would be prudent for the Town to understand the implications of the ROW. **Cook moved to authorize the expenditure; Cory Austin seconded; approved.** Hoyt will inform the CC and request a "heads up" should the issue advance.

Interviews for E911 Coordinator position: Two candidates were interviewed for this position which oversees updates and corrections to the E911 address database and mapping systems. Cory Austin announced a conflict of interest and left the room while candidates were being discussed. Following interviews **Cook moved to adjourn to Executive Session to deliberate and discuss this personnel matter; Ash seconded; passed.** When the Selectboard returned to regular session, **Fred Cook moved to offer the E911 position to Janet Austin; Ash seconded; passed.** Cory Austin returned to the meeting.

Old Business:

Treasure Island tax exemption: Hoyt provided an update concerning her testimony before the House Ways & Means Committee about a revised provision now contained in the 2014 Miscellaneous Tax Provisions bill. The replacement provision, crafted by Senator Jane Kitchel, is a compromise: it returns to the "host" Towns (West Fairlee and Greensboro) the right to decide for themselves whether municipal beach property should be exempt from Town tax; it provides significant tax relief to Thetford and Hardwick by exempting their beach properties from the School Tax; but it also mitigates some loss of School Tax to the education fund by excluding any buildings on the properties from exemption. Hoyt emphasized that the lost school tax revenues will come from the State Education Fund not the Town or District. The League of Cities and Towns has advised West Fairlee to initiate similar contacts with Senators and Senate Committees involved.

Pre-Town Meeting: While the date had been set weeks ago, **Fred Cook moved to warn and post the informational meeting on the budget for Thursday February 27th at p pm at the Community Building; Cory Austin seconded; passed.**

Solicitation of bids for patching and painting the former Health Center space, as well as summer mowing, will begin shortly.

Ash asked whether there was to be more follow up on the James Hughes property tax abatement. Hoyt noted that the Board of Abatement met, took action, and responded to Mr. Hughes, but is now adjourned. Under statute, no further action can be taken.

Hoyt noted that the annual surge of Overweight Permits was beginning. Cory Austin will attend to these.

New Business

Westshire emergency evacuation location: A letter received from Amy Longmore of Westshire requests that the Town designate the Town Office as an evacuation site for the school and provide a key. It was suggested that entrance be made through the side entrance which only requires one key. Hoyt noted that this may be a good opportunity to also get a new key to the Fire Department. **Fred Cook moved to approved Westshire's use of the Town Office in the event of an emergency evacuation; Ash seconded; approved.**

Next meeting will include discussion and approval of near-final draft of the E911 job description

Ash moved to sign the orders; Cory Asutin seconded; passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.