

Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday November 11, 2013

Present: Bev Ash, Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt

Absent: Cory Austin

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

Bev Ash moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2013 regular meeting as presented; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Roads

Fall road grading is underway.

Old Business

Update: Community Building Renovations are almost done; LaValleys still needs to do part of the floor, the painter is still working; everything should be done in the next week or so.

Recycling: The gate lock is on; resident permits/stickers are being worked on.

Response to James Hughes letter re: property taxes: A draft letter composed by Town Attorney Paul Gillies was reviewed. Bev Ash moved to authorize Gillies to send the letter; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Vermont Appraisal Company proposal for (calendar year 2014) assessment updates – Delsie Hoyt moved to accept the contract with the stipulation that the 5 days under contract be reserved for spring re-assessment updates, and that any further per diem assistance for this, or any other purpose, will require prior approval by the Selectboard; Fred Cook seconded; approved. The contract was signed.

Review of November 4th joint Selectboard meeting re: Lake Fairlee dam & Treasure Island – Questions and concerns raised at the joint meeting will be discussed by the Tri-Town Lake Committee. Hoyt expressed concern that attempting a bond question at the upcoming Town Meeting may be premature and would not allow sufficient time for public hearings. Cook pointed out that delay may increase the project's expense. There was consensus among the Selectboard that the provision exempting Treasure Island should be changed as discussed with Senator Jane Kitchel. Hoyt noted that Thetford's proposed "payment in lieu of taxes" could be problematic in the future as the Statute severely limits how much a current Selectboard can constrain a future Selectboard.

Ash noted that trash dumped across from the boat landing was reported by Jim Hughes. It was not clear whether it was visible from the road. It needs to be determined who the property belongs to.

Dog issue – The dog that is running loose in town belongs to Rosalie Reeves; a warning letter needs to be sent. Cory needs to start writing tickets.

New Business

Fred Cook moved to approve the transfer of \$16,796.76 from the Capital Expense Note to the General Fund for Invoice #9; Bev Ash seconded; approved.

Bev Ash moved to approve the transfer of \$165,459.31 from the Grant Anticipation Note to the General Fund for the Class 2 road project (BlakTop bill); Fred Cook seconded; approved.

FY2014 Budget development: strategy and schedule – Preliminary numbers are looking good. Sections of the 2014 Budget will be taken up at the next meeting.

Brushwood Forest timber sale contracts – Fred Cook moved to sign the new contract with Bruce Limlaw for timber sale on the French property; Bev Ash seconded; approved and signed. The renewal of the Slayton contract is pending.

Financial audit - Fred Cook moved to sign the letter of engagement with Sullivan Powers for the annual financial audit in January for \$10,400 as quoted; Bev Ash seconded; approved.

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

Verizon wants to put in a tower on Rowell Brook Road; the Town has been notified as a contiguous landowner (Brushwood Forest). The Conservation Commission and Planning Commission have been asked to review the proposed certificate of public good.

Bev Ash moved to sign the orders; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.