

Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday July 7, 2014

Present: Bev Ash, Cory Austin (5:49), Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt

Absent: Marilyn Dresser

Visitors: Lucinda Austin, Melinda Sargent, Jenn Shatney

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 pm when a quorum was achieved.

Additions to the Agenda

Bev Ash moved to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2014 regular meeting as presented; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Visitors/ Hear and act on reports of Town Officers and Committees

Delinquent Tax Collector: Status of Tax Sale – The preparations are in process and a date will be announced shortly.

Cemetery Commission: Jenn Shatney, representing the Cemetery Commission, requested approval of \$400 expense from the Cemetery Capital Fund for the purchase of a small stone marker for the grave of an infant, last name Kempton, who died in 1937. The grave is currently marked with a little metal frame holding a paper sign (currently unreadable). She said that they would also need about \$30 for cement for the footing. Bev Ash moved that the Selectboard authorize the Cemetery Commission to purchase the stone and materials to set it; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Review Financial Statements (emailed by Treasurer 7/1)

The Treasurer provided us year-to-date financial statements. At the halfway point of the year, revenues and expenses still appear to be on target.

Roads

Marsh Hill (East) washout & request to work in Town ROW - The recent deluge left a culvert on Marsh Hill completely heaved; the Blakes have fixed it and freshened the waterbars. Peter Moore wants to do some work at his own expense in the Town ROW; he would like to haul in 3-4 loads of sta-pack or rip-rap and put in underdrain where a spring comes up in the middle of the road near his house. His contractor of choice is the Blakes. Cory Austin moved to authorize the private ROW work as described; Fred Cook seconded; approved. There is also a little damage on Blood Brook, mostly the result of driveway run-off, but overall we fared very well.

Update: CT River Watershed Council Culvert project – After consulting the culvert survey, it was found that the large culvert on Godfrey Road - a potential project identified by the Watershed Council - was misidentified in terms of condition. An alternative project that came up in the interim is improving drainage by Stever's farm barnyard, where the culvert is buried and plugged. That option is being looked into further.

Crossroad paving bid solicitation – Springfield, BlakTop, Pike will be notified. Bids will be opened on July 21st at the next regular meeting.

Public Safety/Ordinance Enforcement

Dog complaints – Lucinda Austin and Melinda Sargent appeared to express concerns about conditions and noise coming from the new dog kennel in the vilage. Marilyn Dresser investigated complaints received by the Humane Society about Lynch's dogs, however, the conditions were found to meet Humane Society standards. In a surprise visit, Dresser checked on them, and the chains were longer than they legally needed to be and the animals they had plenty of food and water. The plastic barrels are considered acceptable for shelter. The dogs appeared friendly. They still bark, but that has subsided somewhat. Hoyt explained the legal process the Town must go through in enforcing the dog ordinance and responding to other complaints. A letter can be sent about registering their dogs, giving them a deadline; there is no penalty yet because they're new in town.

Follow-up on unregistered dogs - Letters will be going out shortly.

2014 changes to dog licensing – The dog ordinance will be reviewed at the next meeting to comply with changes at the State level.

Old Business

Repaint of Welcome signs – These aren't a current priority and haven't been pursued.

E911 progress/private road names – Abbie Lane and West Fairlee Road signs have been ordered.

Village Center planning follow-up meeting – Brian Hamlin suggested a follow-up meeting on August 7th 6pm - outline of what's going on – TRORC will help us get grants

Update: Planning for future Town-wide composting – Jenn Shatney reported that she, Coeey Kearns, Nick Cook and Geoff Gardner met Friday. According to an informal survey Shatney conducted at the recycling depot, half the people are already composting or are feeding it to animals, and about 2/3 of the other half would love to compost but feel they need more information. The survey also determined that if we were going to have a centralized compost pickup people would rather have it at the town recycling. For the group that is interested and just wants more information they plan to have a session in late September where they will have a cheap, simple-to-make setup to demonstrate and give out handouts.

Update: Brushwood logging – We now have the deposit and the insurance certificate from Limlaw, and the other paperwork is on the way. Slayton, the other contract, should start shortly, and the Conservation Commission will keep track of both companies.

Update: Community Building renovations - Ash inquired when the door directly into the Town Office will be usable. Hoyt reported that scheduling of the concrete contractor to

install ADA ramps had to follow notification of receipt of the Elections Grant. He has since been held up on another job but is expected within the next two weeks.

New Business

Implementing changes to Open Meeting Law/future of Town web site – Rhonda Cook, who maintains the website as a volunteer, will try to keep the website viable but will need cooperation for all Town Committees and Commissions. Due to the problems across the State in implementing the new law, it looks like the legislature may revisit the issue next session. The penalty provisions particularly feel like a kick in the gut to the volunteers who do all the work. The Secretary of State interprets turnaround for minutes as 5 days, not 5 business days as in the past.

Cory Austin moved to renew the CAI Technologies Cartographic Associates GIS and online mapping system contract at the same rate as last year; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Timeframe re: lodging of Grand List/setting tax rate – Due to a glitch, the State 411 and Grand List were not balancing. Hoyt has a call into Property Valuation and Review to help track down the problem, but recommended delaying setting of the tax rate until the issue is resolved. Fred Cook moved to meet Mon. July 14th at 5pm for a special selectboard meeting to set the tax rate; Cory Austin seconded; approved.

Bev Ash moved to sign orders; Cory Austin seconded; approved.

Review Correspondence

Overweight permits – Cory will take care of them.

Two Rivers bill for the program - Delsie will log onto Intelligrants to requisition funds.

Permits for the ramps and windows

Park N Ride grant application, maybe not right now

From Rivendell - concerns about the bus stop at Wild Hill and Jennings Road. Two of the three signs are already up, and the third one has already been ordered

Upcoming Events

Chicken BBQ August 2nd – Support your local Fire Department!

Aug 7 the second TRORC Village Center meeting at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.