

Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday September 3, 2013

Present: Beverly Ash, Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt

Absent: Corey Austin

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Minutes: Bev Ash moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2013 regular meeting as presented; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Review Financial Statements: Third quarter budget figures are on track. Unbudgeted rental income for the Community Building will help cover the renovation's small change order. Electricity is down about one third; and it looks like the fuel will be down slightly as well. Unexpended Liability Insurance line item under highways, now included in the highway contract, will help offset the overage in road salt. Despite modifications to the new recycling site, that item will also be down.

Roads

Better Back Roads Grant – A decision is expected shortly.

Wild Hill/Beanville paving – Paving on Beanville maybe later this week/next week. The Blakes had to push trash out of the ditch on the former Eastman property and removed the guardrail for access; we need to pressure the new owner to continue earlier clean-up. The Selectboard will write another letter and see if we get any action.

Depending on available grant funds paving may extend further on Wild Hill toward the Center.

Austin Road – The problem culvert causing siltation on lawns below is not the Town's but in a private driveway and out of our jurisdiction. It was suggested the affected homeowner install some sort of catch basin.

Back St. Bridge deterioration – Jonathan Blake has suggested that BlakTop be asked to install a big apron extending to the lip of the bridge to help solve the erosion near the bridge deck. This will also prevent the plow from chipping off pavement on Beanville Road. The Town got a good rate on Beanville paving, so a few necessary aprons and patch of the Back Street culvert will be manageable.

The ditch and culvert work is finished at Downings and they appear to be satisfied with it.

Vermont Local Roads Snow Plowing Survey – Jonathan Blake will help with this.

Crack seal on Middlebrook – Two days worth of crack sealing in budget continue up Middlebrook. Delsie will call NICOM.

Old Business

Community Building Renovations – A concrete contractor will be needed for sidewalk and ramps for rear entries (not in the plan); a few local suggestions are Rich Clifford, Ross Page, and Rich Saffo, to take a look and quote the job. This is something we didn't anticipate, but there should be money in the contingency fund for it. Rhonda has agreed to pursue the elections grant which supplements accessibility projects for official polling places.

Contract with Orange County Sheriff/mutual aid Thetford PD – To synchronize the OCS contract with the calendar year and budget year, the contract was revised to extend until the end of 2013; a new contract will start January 1, 2014. Delsie Hoyt moved to sign the Orange County Sheriff's contract through end of 2013; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Delinquent dog registration list – There are only 1 or 2 stragglers, the same as last year.

Options for use of Sheldon Miller Fund – The opinion letter from Town Attorney Paul Gillies should arrive shortly. Bev Ash offered that using the money to support a summer program might be good. The total is around \$3000.

Recycling Attendant/Monitor – One candidate expressed interest. Bev Ash moved to offer Maurice Austin the position of recycling attendant; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Bev Ash is still trying to contact Johnny Johnson about repainting the West Fairlee signs.

Plans will be made to meet with Gary Collins regarding an agreement for an emergency shelter at the Westshire School.

New Business

Capital Expense Note - Fred Cook moved to approve the transfer of \$56,196 from the Capital Expense Note to the General Fund for Invoice #5 from Porter (mostly material); Bev Ash seconded; approved.

Grant Anticipation Note - Bev Ash moved to approve the transfer of \$6,674 from the Grant Anticipation Note for the Class II Road Grant to the General Fund; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Meeting with TRORC re: Municipal Planning Grant proposal – Members of the Selectboard, Planning Commission, and a member of the Historical Society toured the Community Building/Bean Hall/ Park area with Chris Sargent and Brian Hamlin from TRORC. While this is a competitive year for the grant, TRORC is excited about the project to develop a “master plan” for the municipal property in the village center. They will use our village designation and Town Plan goals and objectives to help develop the proposal. A similar visioning project for Pittfield was phased and budget conscious but also very impressive. The master plan will help support the Town’s future requests for a variety of grant funds e.g. a small park & ride or development of a Farmer’s Market or community garden to name a few. Hoyt noted a brief special meeting might be required September 23 to approve the completed proposal due at the end of September.

Review VLCT 2014 Municipal Policy: VLCT has asked Towns to review and comment on its 2014 legislative priorities. Hoyt noted glancing reference to tax exemptions and other priorities concerning protecting resources on the Town level. Hoyt will respond to Karen Horn.

Review to-date errors and omissions to the Grand List – Two are changes resulting from the Board of Civil Authority grievances; current use will also change on one of those. Another property didn't keep up to date on their current use so it was discontinued. Several changes reflect a State penalty for late filing of the Homestead Declaration. The property abandoned on on Back Street and now owned by the Town will be changed to exempt. Fred Cook moved to approve changes to the Grand List as of September 3, 2013; Bev Ash seconded; approved.

Community Building fuel - Perry's has quoted \$1.69 a gallon for propane.

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

Report from Disability Rights of Vermont - The results from the accessibility survey team for the Community Building came back; we're aware of the reported deficiencies in the building. The team's recommendations may help with a grant proposal to correct some of these problems.

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

Review Correspondence

There was an Act 250 application from Dennis Phelps, who is putting in an auto repair and restoration building on Middlebrook Road behind Ginny Southworth's barn; auto repair is automatically reviewed by Act 250 because of the potential for contamination.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.