

Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday August 6, 2012

Present: Beverly Jo Ash, Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt

Visitors: Tom Cain, Viola Farrar, Janet Austin, Mike Fanizzi joined the meeting at 7:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm

Minutes: Cook moved that the minutes of the July 16, 2012 Selectboard meeting be approved as presented; Ash seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Visitors/ Reports of Town Officers and Committees:

Tom Cain, an assessor with Vermont Appraisal Company, provided the Selectboard with an overview of his credentials and procedures for the upcoming town-wide reappraisal. Letters will begin going out to landowners this week to schedule assessment appointments. Cain will provide the Selectboard with a printed copy of the reappraisal overview for reference.

The Conservation Commission requested via email approval of Vermont Trails Alliance (VTA) membership which was inadvertently omitted from their annual working budget. Hoyt moved that the Town join VTA; Cook seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Peggy Willey emailed information about a proposed Keeping Track Training Program. While supporting the value of the program, Hoyt explained that accepted accounting standards prohibit the Town from collecting registration fees or running other funds belonging to a third party through the Town's general ledger. Cook will convey this information to the Conservation Commission.

Roads:

Marsh Hill Bridge project: Army Corps still expected to sign-off on August 10; the box culvert is being cast.

Summer Road Work: Jonathan Blake provided an update of recent work – a developing washout was repaired on Middlebrook; ditches refreshed on Russ Rd. & Buck Hill; culverts cleaned in Kidderhood; and culverts cleaned on Austin Rd. where an existing driveway caused perennial problems. The Selectboard continued its discussion of how to take action where existing, improperly sited driveways or lack of driveway culverts are problematic to the town road.

Work to be done includes installation of a new culvert near the Bradford line on Rowell Brook Rd. to help reduce the spring mudhole in this location; crushed and heaved culverts need attention in Scrabble Hollow, and water cut-out need to be refreshed to prevent further erosion; and a new culvert is needed on Wild Hill. Blakes will begin mowing the roadsides this week and will use grinder to reach behind guardrails. Blake asked whether roadside brush should also be cut. The Board agreed that brush should be cut where there were safety concerns, but the focus of road work should be on drainage.

Other road issues: A lengthy discussion on prioritizing paving needs and the most cost-effective use of future Class II road grant funds ensued. Hoyt suggested a paving plan be a major topic for the next meeting and will pull file information on options and estimates. The Town will contact NICOM to continue pavement sealing on Middlebrook as recommended by VTrans.

Review of Financials: The financial statements to date were reviewed

Old Business:

Basic Emergency Operations Plan Austin and Hoyt have compiled required information and the draft was submitted to Two Rivers RPC for review

Public records vault: Architect Jay Barrett requested a meeting with the Selectboard next week to review progress drawings.

Update Library/Office move: A few electrical outlets in the new library do not work; an electrician from Tilden's will be contacted to investigate and make repairs. A used telephone/voice mail system purchased from Key Communications has been installed. Hoyt will find conference-type tables for the office prior to the Tri-Town Lake meeting scheduled for next week. On other building maintenance issues, Hoyt noted that the Health Center's toilet needs repair and a plumber will be contacted; and their hall and office lights appear to short out (not a bulb problem) and Tilden's will be asked to look into this as well.

Unregistered dogs: Ash reported that there are still 5 delinquent dog owners and she is following up on these.

Ordinance re: illegal burning: no activity

New Business:

Tropical Storm Irene Emergency Line of Credit: The Town Treasurer informed the Selectboard that tax receipts to date are sufficient to repay the remainder of this debt without causing cash-flow concerns. Ash moved that the Town pay off the balance of the Current Expense Note with Merchants Bank in the amount of \$11,332 plus any additional interest; Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Collection of current taxes: Cook moved to sign the warrant for collection of current taxes; Ash seconded; the motion was approved unanimously. Hoyt will return this the Treasurer Rhonda Cook.

Set-up/software for on-line parcel maps: The Selectboard summarized the August 10th tax map/GIS mapping system presentation by Cartographic Associates. Cook recognized that the initial set-up for the "cloud"-based mapping system was expensive but that it was also essential. Hoyt agreed, and noted that the Town Clerk is almost ready to launch computer-based land records and the mapping is an essential component. She pointed out that the set-up expense could be covered through zeroing out the tax map fund which will no longer be required since updates will be made through an ongoing maintenance agreement and tax map maintenance in the existing budget. Ash moved to contract with Cartographic Associates for set-up and one year's maintenance of the mapping system; Cook seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Other Business:

Order to Reappraise: The Town received an Order to Reappraise from the Vermont Department of Taxes due to our unacceptably high Coefficient of Dispersion. Hoyt contacted the Tax Department for guidance (since the Town has already entered into a contract for reappraisal) and was instructed to submit the contract with Vermont Reappraisal Company as the Town's plan for compliance with the order.

Tri-Town Lake Fairlee Committee: Cook provided a brief overview of the first meeting of the group established to look at options for Thetford, Fairlee, and West Fairlee to work together on lake-related issues. Mike Fanizzi, appointed to serve on the Committee, sought clarification of the Committee's mandate and expressed concern that private interests might hijack the process. Cook, who also serves on the Committee, said that the group felt it must collect additional information to make an informed choice among the options delineated by Jim Barlow from VLCT at the original joint Selectboard meeting. Cook felt comfortable with the Committee's actions thus far, and Fanizzi agreed to remain on the Committee. The Selectboard resolved to monitor the situation for the time being, and urged Cook and Fanizzi to keep them informed if another joint Selectboard meeting seemed indicated.

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

Review Correspondence

Upcoming Events

- Saturday August 11th: Lakefest
- Saturday September 15th Big Trash Day behind West Fairlee Community Building
- Saturday September 22nd Household Hazardous Waste, Norwich

Adjournment: Cook moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm; Ash seconded; approved unanimously.