

Selectboard Meeting Minutes
12.29.2015

Attendees

Carol Olsen	Joan Goodrich	Michael Button	Ruben Hook
Susan Elder	Jane Cushman	Karen Lathrop	Doug Hayward

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

Additions or Deletions

- TAC Meeting under Old Business
- Town Hall Roof under Old Business
- Draft Minutes for 10.6.15 & 11.3.15 under approve minutes

Carol Olsen, chair, changed agenda order placing Old Business first, followed by budget.

Old Business

Carol O. reported she cannot attend the TAC meeting in January. There were no comments.

Doug Hayward gave a verbal report on Town Hall Roof upon completion of his contract. He reports due to leakage the Town should have an assessment of their blown in insulation for contamination. Carol O. requested Doug send a detailed written report of prioritized items that still needed attention. Board had questions on cleanup as it was not stated in the contract. Doug H. reported he picked up and raked, and he will look at ruts made by machine to see if they need filling in the spring. The Board suggested a sweep with a magnet too. Board tasked Karen L. with contacting a company to assess any moisture issues. Doug H. inquired if the Board was planning on future repairs and if there would be a budget for them. The Board stated the budget does include hall repairs. The Board questioned how long the repairs to the turrets would be good for. Doug H. is unsure, as the decking below the slate does not support the slate where it meets the roofline. He noted he replaced 1400 hundred slates at this point and nothing should be leaking.

Budget

Water/Sewer – The Board reviewed the Water and Sewer budgets. There was discussion on compensation, insurance, retirement match, worker's compensation. On the subject of compensation while most of the Board were for increased compensation, Carol Olsen felt the increases being discussed were too large. Board discussion on what the average and median hourly wage was from the VLCT 2015 Municipal Compensation Report. Jane C. reported Lawrence Stewart had a question on whether the retirement match had to go through New York Life? Jane C. noted there was nothing in the personnel policy on it. Mike B. leery of using more than one custodian. Other members cited extra work for the Treasurer so were not in favor.

Joan G. moved to set wages for the 2016 year at 21.00/hour for Rick Ackerman and Nolan LaFrancis, 19.00/ hour for Brian Lamson and 16.00/ hour for Lawrence Stewart starting in the new year. Mike Button seconded the motion. Four members stated aye and Carol O. stated nay. It was so moved.

Mike Button moved to approve to 2016 Water & Sewer Budgets as submitted . Ruben Hook seconded. All were in favor , so moved.

Listers Budget – Board reviewed the Listers budget but have questions on printing expenses for the ensuing year with the reappraisal finishing up. Joan G. would like the Listers to cost out the payroll so time worked on reappraisal could be reimbursed from the reappraisal fund as they were back at the original contract. Carol Olsen questioned whether the Town could legally. Karen L. offered to contact Nancy Merrill, District Supervisor, for an answer. Board also felt the office supplies for the 2016 year were too low and had questions on whether the reappraisal fund paid for appeals. Jane C. noted it was too late for reimbursement for payroll , but we could try going forward. Mike B. noted the Town has to have documentation for it. Karen L. to contact Phyllis about printing costs of the reappraisal budget. Main issues- budget for appeals & printing costs. Resubmit at next meeting, **no action taken.**

Rec Committee – Board reviewed the budget the Rec Committee submitted and went through orders. Board feels the Committee does not offer enough to our young people. Board noted their budget doesn't affect our budget numbers. Board discussed the Vermont Community Foundation that has the fund. **No action taken.**

First Branch Ambulance- Mike B. Stated under Article 3, the ambulance was part of the budget. It is the same as last year. **No action taken.**

Treasurer's Office Budget – Board reviewed budget. **Joan G. move to accept the Treasurer's Budget as submitted. Ruben H. seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.**

Highway Budget – Board reviewed the budget. Jane C. provided summaries of the highway account for the Board to review. Board would like some changes to the line items. Line item for diesel fuel to be separated from operating expenses and resurfacing added. Discussion on how to present New Town Garage items in the Town Report. Mike B. noted there should be a line in future reports for New Town Garage Debt Service. Discussion on costs for items that need to be included were, landscaping, salt shed and application, Moxley Bridge work, Storm water permit fees. Board discussed Town equipment payments and whether the Board should place an article before the Town to make them a lump sum item and refinance as one item. Board discussed having an equipment fund in the future in order to cut down on financing costs. Work on the budget to continue at next meeting.

Town Hall Budget – Board reviewed budget submitted. Jane C. noted minimum wage is 9.62 and Mr. Blondin's hourly wage needs reconsideration. Board held discussion of compensation. **Mike B. move to set wage at 10.00/hour for Bill Blondin stating in the New Year. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved. Joan G. moved to accept the town hall budget at presented. Susan Elder seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.**

Parks Commission – Board discussion on what, historically, was Parks Commission used for. Jane C. stated the fund had been used for mowing of the greens and for trees in the past but there is no longer enough money in the fund for this. Mike B. proposes under parks put new line –parks mowing and maintenance line.

Website – Board would like to know costs on the upkeep of the website for a year. Karen L. to look into it. Board would also like to know labor costs. **No action taken.**

Selectboard Budget - Under Selectboard administrative line item, Mike B. stated position should have pay rate of \$40,000.00 and Joan C. believes it should be full time. Board members differed on whether the Town should go to a Town Manager or stay with Town Administrator. Discussion about what the Town could realistically afford, what the workload would be, how to make the position pay for itself through grants sought out. Board noted the workload is not the same as years ago, it has increased dramatically, and our policies are out of date. Board discussed full time position with benefits. Susan Elder stated there was not enough information to make a decision. To be continued at the next meeting. **No action taken.**

Approve Orders

Joan G moved to approve orders. Mike B. seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

TRORC – Rep for Advisory Committee

Susan Elder stated she would be willing to be the representative to the Advisory Committee with TRORC on the 5 proposals they received for the flood study of the Box Culvert Bridge, Maple Avenue Bridge and the N. Court Street Bridge for VTRANS. She wanted a little more background which Joan G. provided. **Joan G. moved to appoint Susan Elder as representative for the Advisory Committee. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.**

Salt Shed Update

The Board reviewed the Zoning Administrator's memo on the temporary salt shed. Carol O. stated she had gone up to the site with the Zoning Administrator and had spoken with Rick Ackerman about it. Rick's plan is for plastic to be layed down with 6 inches of material to be piled on top to keep it down, with planks and tin for the top roof. **Joan G. moved to allow the temporary salt shed with the plan to move it and line it with plastic and gravel and one load at a time from Cargill. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.**

Executive Session

Ruben H. moved to enter executive session for personnel at 10:10 pm . Mike Button seconded the motion. All were in favor so moved.

Joan Goodrich moved to leave executive session at 10:20 pm. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

The Board disclosed an advisory point with the Town Administrator.

Joan G. move to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m. Ruben Hook seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.