

Minutes
West Rutland Select Board
Monday, December 23, 2013

Present: Nick Notte, Sean Barrows, Pete Bianchi, John Harvey, Chet Brown, Mary Ann Goulette

Others Present: Joe Skaza, Mike Skaza

Call to order with Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 by John Harvey

Minutes of 12/9/13 – Motion by Chet and second by Sean to approve the minutes with the correction of Paul Trepanier to Pat Trepanier on the 1st Page. Also change the verbiage of adding more towers to adding “more towers in the region”.

Public concerns: None

Discussion Items:

Fire Dept. Budget: Joe Skaza and Mary Ann reviewed the fire budget prior to the selectmen’s meeting. The following parts of the budget were discussed:

- Insurance is level funded.
- Communication was discussed. It was suggested turning over pagers, maybe 6 year.
- \$800 off the top for state dispatch. Have to keep the 775 telephone number.
- Board given a list of calls of the fire department.
- Savings account: \$30,000 is added every year; currently have \$143,000 plus need to add the \$30,000 for this year.
- Currently have 16 current firefighters. Would ideally like to have 20.
- Front line Pierce pumper is 20 years old so we should look at a new pumper. Everything we have is paid for. Truck savings might need to be increased. Replacement cost \$450,000 +/- . Mini pumper was \$164,000. Mr. Skaza will need to do research before purchasing a truck. NFPA requirements have to be met.

By consensus the board agreed to have the fire department start looking for a new truck. It may take over a year to develop an RFP and order.

Discussion around accidents that are happening on the twin bridge. Mary Ann tried to get the State to put up a flashing light. The State said it is not a high accident area. We think many of the accidents are not reported. Joe is keeping track of all the accidents. .

Sheriff’s Budget: Sheriff Bernard was not present. Tabled to the next meeting.

Winter Maintenance: Email from Mike Moser as a concerned citizen about sidewalks not being maintained before school started. Mary Ann talked to Joe Fleming, Principal, and he had no problems, the village downtown was taken care of but not the outskirts of town. It takes 7 hours to snowblow all the sidewalks in town. Town currently stops plowing at 11:00 p.m. Start again at 6 a.m. It was suggested to see if Frank Gorham can help with the sidewalks if there is a big storm.

Town Manager Report:

Safe School Grant – had a meeting for the sidewalk feasibility study. Clarendon from Fairview to parking lot on East side, Campbell, Thrall and intersection of Clarendon Avenue possibly a rotary. Will do a public concern meeting. The infrastructure grant will be funding in May or June and is a 95% grant.

Construction downstairs. Took paint off bricks and ordered the windows. Feb. 1st is completion date.

Purchased Fitzgerald tax sale for 4,518.64 .

Finish budget for next meeting.

Application for Planning Grant – Drinking water revolving loan fund for Rt. 4 – Grant is for \$97,000 and will be rolled into the cost of the project. The sewer portion would be about 20% of the cost. Mary Ann has heard from 16 people and 2 no's. Rutland Town Fire District #1 is very interested in hooking on. Will try to get more information out before March. User fees will cover cost of bond. New users will also have a bond payment. Will pay allocation and will pay to connect on. Motion to submit an application to apply for the DWRL by Sean and a second by Chet. Unanimous.

Adopt road and bridge standards: Changed in January 2013 resulting from issues with Hurricane Irene. We need to have highway crew take a grader course. Chet made a motion to adopt the road bridge standards. Sean seconded. Unanimous.

Reappoint planning commission member – Chet made a motion to appoint Denis Lincoln for a 3 year term. Peter seconded and the motion passed unanimously..

Designate a Memorial Fund for the World War II memorial – There is a committee formed. Question is there is an organization to handle the funds. The memorial will be on town property. Auditor said we can designate a fund and it is tax deductible. Could be a private organization where the money would be held. Motion to set up memorial fund by Chet and second by Nick. Unanimous.

Board Member concerns:

Chet: nothing – he would be willing to ride with the new plow man to show him where the curbs are.

Nick: up for reelection and won't be running again in March.

Sean: Riggs property – spoke about background. Purchased in 1977. Previous owner had it for five years. Tanks were taken out by Exxon and have been gone for 40 years.

Pete: nothing

Approved orders: The board approved the pay orders.

Executive Session: Sean moved to enter executive session for a legal matter at 7:45 p.m. The issue involves zoning so Jayne Pratt is present. Pete seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Chet made a motion and seconded by Nick to exit executive session at 8:02 p.m.

Sean made a motion to reject any offer on settlement. Seconded by Chet.

Chet made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Seconded by Pete.

Respectfully submitted,
Charleen Bowen