

**West Rutland Select Board Minutes
January 26, 2015**

Present: Chet Brown, Peter Bianchi, John Harvey, Mitch Frankenberg, Sean Barrows, Mike Moser, Peter Kulig, Mary Ann Goulette and Joe Skaza

Call to order: John Harvey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with pledge of allegiance.

Agenda: John requested the approval for the Liquor License submitted from Rite Aid be added to the agenda. A motion was made by Pete to add it and it was seconded by Chet. The agenda was approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Chet made a motion to adopt the minutes of 1/12/15. Sean seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Chet requested two corrections to the minutes. It was noted that John made a motion to approve the January 12th agenda and Chet actually did. Lastly, it was noted that John made the motion to adopt the December 22nd minutes and Chet actually did. The corrections were approved unanimously.

Public Concerns: None

Action Items

2015 BUDGET APPROVAL: Mary Ann noted the only change to the 2015 budget from last meeting was an increase of \$25 for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission dues. The current budget results in a 2 cent municipal tax rate increase. There was discussion about using 25K from the fund balance which would still leave a balance of 400K. This would result in a 1 cent decrease. It was decided that the borrowing would have minimal impact on the tax rate and since there hasn't been an increase in the municipal tax rate in 5 years the fund balance would remain untouched. It was also noted that the budget has been flat lined for 5 years. The two cent increase results in a \$30.00 annual increase on a \$150,000 home. With a motion by Chet and seconded by Peter, the budget was accepted unanimously.

2015-16 WARNING: Mary Ann said the warning is exactly same as last year for service request monies. The paving article also remains at 65K. Chet mad a motion to accept and sign the warning as presented and Sean seconded. It was unanimous.

LIQUOR LICENSE: Mitch made a motion to approve the Rite Aid Store # 111 liquor license and Peter seconded. It was unanimous

Discussion Items

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL. The town applied for a grant from the state that will cover the costs for improved signage around the school. The state provides the signs and the town maintains them. Overall the board liked the plan from the state. Their only concern was one crossing sign with flashing beacons. They want to know what kind of

bulbs it uses, how often they flash and how bright they will be. Mary Ann said she would inquire and let them know.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND- Mary Ann noted that there is a 19K revolving loan fund in the general fund that has been idle for years. She is researching more on it as it was effective prior to her time as Town Manager. Chet thought it was originally a 100K loan from the state to the development board to help generate new business in the town. Mary Ann suggested the select board assign the administration of the funds to the Business Development Group. In years past, a board was named to manager. Many ideas were shared on how to use the money to generate business for the town. Sean said at this point the select board needs to decide who will administer the money. Sean made a motion for Mary Ann to work with the development board to administer the revolving loan fund subject of the approval of guidelines. Peter seconded the motion. It was unanimous.

TDI- Mary Ann wanted the board to know about the public hearing meeting on January 28th for the New England Clean Power Link. We will not attend the hearing but we will be notified as the process continues.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT- The state is in charge of paving all Class 1 roads. Currently, Mary Ann is trying to get Main Street and Clarendon Avenue re-paved as they are rated in very poor to poor condition. The state knows roads are in bad condition but want to push the project out a year or two. Main Street was done about 10 years ago and Clarendon Avenue was done roughly 19 years ago. She is going to continue to try to get the project done this year and will keep people posted.

HYDRAULIC STUDY-WHIPPLE HOLLOW BRIDGE- The bridge on Whipple Hollow road is not in good condition. Mary Ann is looking at reducing the load on the bridge. There was an analysis done by the state but they need a formal survey and further engineering to establish the correct load limit. Mary Ann is going to hire an engineer to look at the bridge. Mary Ann mentioned there is a structures grant we can apply for in the spring that could cover 80% of expenses.

Mary Ann asked if there were any parking problems over the weekend as we had a large event with Caitlin Canty. No one was aware of any. Sean wondered if we need ushers at events exceeding a certain amount of people. Mary Ann said she would look into our policy.

Board Concerns

Mitch – Asked Mary Ann about the lower speed limit signs on Clarendon Avenue. Mary Ann hasn't received any information but will look into it.

Peter – Did the road sand increase in size? He thinks it's still big. Mary Ann will check with Frank.

Mike Moser made a request to have the sidewalks plowed sooner in the morning than they currently are. Mary Ann will forward the request to the Highway team.

John invited Joe Skaza to stay for executive session. Chet made a motion to go into executive session at 6:55 pm. and it was seconded by Mitch.

Chet made a motion to exit executive session at 7:10 pm. seconded by Mitch.

Sean made a motion to enter into a purchase and sales agreement with the Town of Middletown Springs for the sale of our 1994 Pierce Pumper for \$50,000 with a retainer of \$5,000. Possession to be taken at discretion of the chief. Seconded by Chet. Vote was unanimous.

Peter made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Seconded by Chet.

Respectfully submitted,
Christen FitzGerald