

Minutes
West Rutland Select Board Meeting
January 13, 2014

Present: Sean Barrows, John Harvey, Chet Brown, Pete Bianchi, Nick Notte, Mary Ann Goulette, Mike Moser, Joe Skaza, Frank Wolfe, Lisa Garcia, Ed Savage.

Call to Order: John Harvey, board chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Chet made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/23/13 as presented. Nick seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Concerns: Mike Moser stated that the sidewalk across from Price Chopper is all broken up.

Action Items:

Fire Dept. Officer's Appointment: Fire Chief – Chet motioned to appoint Joe Skaza for fire chief. Sean seconded and motion passed unanimously. Joe shared that they had trouble with one of the pumps filling up with sand. They can't get the sand out and it could cost up to \$3,000 to have it repaired. There also is a water leak in town which could be causing the sand problem.

Lister's budget: Lisa Garcia spoke to the board about ideas in regard to restructuring the lister's role and salary. There are currently 3 listers. Lisa shared that the computer is the key issue with people not being comfortable using it and it seems to get more complicated every year. Other points that Lisa brought to the listers were:

- Listers have totally autonomy in signing the grand list.
- Proctor does not have any listers.
- Need more qualified staffing at the office.
- Need to correct some long standing inequities.
- Need to look at properties with two residences side by side as to the way they are appraised.

Suggestions included:

- Keeping 3 listers but not in the office 4 hours a day. Could be done in 10 to 15 hours per week.
- Pay should be based on credentials.
- Always have had a chair – Lisa is the chair currently.
- Listers are elected.
- Mary Ann could give the chair more per hour.

Everyone should be trained in case something happens to the listing chair. Lisa said that not everyone will be willing to train. In the past the listers have worked 12 hours a week at \$14.00/hour. The budget for this year is \$9,500 and only half of that amount has been spent. Suggested possibly keeping the salary for a starting lister at \$14.00/hr and the person doing above and beyond would get more money.

The State is not likely to step in right away to demand a reappraisal. There is currently \$59,000 in the reappraisal budget.

This topic will be discussed further at a future meeting. Will put it in as a budget item.

Highway budget: Labor has gone down since Bernie is gone. Health and dental went up. The big project is Sheldon. Engineering money could go up. \$150,000 fund balance in the Sheldon project budget. There are only three houses on Sheldon which would cost each owner \$25,000 each to hook on to the sewer. The town will look into possibly getting an easement from each of the three owners. Engineering budget bumped up to \$5,000.

Water/Sewer Budget: 3.3 % increase – Mary Ann focused on the accomplishments of Ed Savage. Ed has done a lot of work for the town and the select board and town manager appreciate it.

- Ed said that the door to the treatment plant wouldn't lock. Royal Glass charged \$800.00 for a lock.
- Green Mt. Sewer gave us a discount based on information presented by Ed.
- Water bill nothing major in the water.
- Administration was upped \$1,000. Upgrade lines in about 6 locations. Have \$97,000 in budget.

Ed shared that the volume of water started going up 20,000 gallons a day about a month ago. Today it was up over 100,000 gallons. They do not know where the leak is. It could be in a vacant house (broken pipe). Vt Rural Water is going to come down to see if they can find the leak. Suggested checking people's water meters.

Sewer: Harrison avenue dry pit can had water up to the ladder and sump pump wasn't working. Got a pump and isolated the pump with the bad seal and put in a new sump pump. Adding in \$1500 to the budget. Should look at replacing the underground stations.

Recreation Center toilets were plugged and sinks running all over the place. Smelled like sewer. Manhole had plugged and A1 cleaned the line out. Rec center is out of commission.

Ed would like a person to help him out when he needs it. Won't be full time. Sean said we need someone to take over the trackless, grounds work. Mary Ann suggested maybe talking to Stafford to see if they had anyone that might be interested. Mary Ann will add money for a possible position. Elm Street needs a generator. Have \$98,000 in sewer savings.

Board needs to gather as much info as possible to present to the voters on the Center Rutland water and sewer problem. Fire Dept. is having their meeting tonight. The Board discussed ways to compensate waste water personnel.

Administration budget – Would it be less expensive to have one full time person rather than two part time positions. Mary Ann will look at the budget. Will have one line for bookkeeper in the budget.

Recreation: Move the money over once we know what the costs are going to be. \$9,400 in budget currently.

Grand list has gone up this year. Could add 20,000 for recreation area.

Sean wanted to check on the mowing budget. 2017 the lawn contracts expire. Mary Ann will document time and performance. Spent \$11,000 on mowing this year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Charleen Bowen