

Minutes
West Rutland Select Board
Monday, May 12, 2014

Present: John Harvey, Pete Bianchi, Sean Barrows, Mitch Frankenburg, Chet Brown, Mary Ann Goulette.

Call to order: John Harvey called the meeting to order at 6:00 with Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Chet made a motion to adopt the minutes of 4/28 with the correction of two spelling changes – Frankenburg and Chet were misspelled. Peter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Concerns: None

Presentation on New England Clean Power Link Project: Rick Chase, representative of New England Clean Power Link Project, presented the project to the select board. Power link is in the early stages of development. The project will allow for importation of clean reliable hydro electricity from Canada. The closing of Vt. Yankee opened up lines without having to build additional transmission of lines. There will be 150 miles of line and it will use two cables. It will all be underground. It will be 4 ft under surface of ground and will require very little maintenance. The lines will be backfilled with thermal sand and covered with concrete and back filled. 100 miles under lake Champlain and will come out in Benson and run arlong 22A until Route 4 to the converter station in Ludlow. West Rutland will have 4.7 miles of cable installed. The Company has met with VTrans to use their rights of ways and have talked to Velco about using their transmission lines. West Rutland will receive new taxes for cable and lines themselves. \$250,000 to \$400,000 is possible for receipt of taxes. The timeline: announced the project in October of last year, 2019 is the estimated completion date. Some permits will be applied for this year. 2015 regulatory commission will be completing their studies. Vermonters could save 10,000,000 in electricity costs. The Company will consider:

1. Public meeting
2. Linking websites
3. Keeping selectboard informed.
4. Cushing, McGann, Bradley should be notified as it is closest to their homes.

No risk to rate payers as it is private funds building the lines.

Town Manager's Report:

Speed Limit on Fairview Avenue – It is 35 mph until rec area entrance where it changes to 15 mph. Suggested having it 15 mph the whole street. Mary Ann will check on road classifications. Chet made a motion to post Fairview at 25 mph to the gate and Sean seconded. Unanimous.

Still having issues with Elm Street pump station. Only have one pump at this time. Shaft on motor looks bent.

Yard sale is this weekend. Clarendon Avenue one side parking only. We will post signs and inform the sheriff.

Notice applications for bike path project. Should get moving on the 1st phase. Due June 27th and needs a letter of intent. Mary Ann will meet with the planning commission to talk about an application to join the Creek Path in Rutland City over Boardman Hill.

Fire Truck Purchase: Joe Skaza spoke to the board and introduced Martha Alexander, a West Rutland resident. Martha is a large contributor to the fire department over the years. She contributed money at the Christmas tree lighting for the firemen to go out to dinner. At one point, the new fire station building ran out of money and Martha and her brother Alex contributed to the kitchen. They also paved the parking lot. Joe was talking about buying a new fire truck. Joe read a letter from Martha stating that she wants to contribute \$500,000 to the purchase of a new truck. Joe Skaza will contact sales person and get together with Mary Ann to order. Joe wants the purchase completed before June as there is a price increase of \$20,000. \$542,000 was the original price but got it down to 480,000 with pre payment. Talked about ladder truck which is 1960. Can probably find a used ladder truck for \$250,000. Martha would like us to look into a used ladder truck. Board thanked Martha immensely for her generosity. Could probably sell the old truck for \$60-70,000. Sean made a motion to purchase the new fire truck and have Joe proceed with the paperwork for approx. \$480,000. Second by Chet. Unanimous.

Access Application: McGinnis – 413 Whipple Hollow Road – before water street there is currently no driveway, a pull off across the road was previously used. Frank has looked at it. Mark Coderre is doing the work to put in a driveway. Pete made a motion to accept application and Sean seconded. Unanimous.

Board Concerns:

Chet: Dewey Avenue – movement again – keeping track of slide.

Sheldon Avenue – sewer line – Fabian gave a couple of estimates for sewer on Sheldon to Thrall to Pleasant. Looking at reconstruction of the road. Will talk more with Fabian. Still working on price. 6 culverts that would be needed are about 45% for sewer and 25% for water. Center Rutland funding – preliminary numbers for grant and loan replaced. 725,000 will be grant – 1,283,000 will be loan. Average is 36%.

Mitch: Soczinski approached him about vandalism in cemetery. Lots of tents are there in the back. Make sure Sheriff is notified. It is the responsibility of the town to repair the stones.

Sean: When will we grade? Water street was done today. Gravel is being delivered this week. Painting and road signs being worked on. Sean suggested only working on the town width of the roads. World War II monument committee. Have some drawings from Dan. Working on brochure which will be printed tomorrow. Next meeting might be next week. Trying to figure out fundraising also.

Pete: Road grading will start next week. Trail between Clark Hill and log cabin are having bon fires. Usually on Friday nights. Town is going to start working on the road soon for the logging.

Orders were approved.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 27th if needed because of the holiday.

Executive session:

Chet made a motion to enter executive session at 7:55 for real estate discussions. Sean seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Mary Ann instructed to continue negotiation. Board came out of executive session at 8:10 motion by Chet seconded by Pete.

Adjournment: Peter motioned and Chet seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Charleen Bowen