

MINUTES
WEST RUTLAND SELECT BOARD
Monday, December 14, 2015

Present: John Harvey, Sean Barrows, Chet Brown, Mary Ann Goulette.

Others Present: Mike Moser, Joe Skaza, Wendy Loomis, Florence Tyminski, Pete Tyminski, Michael Skaza, Richard Prenevost, Kevin and Deb Sweet, Richard Fredette, Peter Cooley.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Sean Barrows with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: John made a motion and Chet seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

Minutes: Chet made a motion and John seconded to adopt the minutes of 10/26/15 as written. Chet made a motion and John seconded to adopt the minutes of November 23, 2015 as presented. Both motions were unanimously approved.

Public Concerns: Mike Moser shared that the blocks of broken crosswalk across from Price Chopper has been removed.

Discussion Items: Wendy Loomis from the Child Advocacy Center spoke to the board and shared that the Child Advocacy Center investigates all reported cases of child abuse. She shared that they have 2 ½ investigators plus they pay a sheriff. Because of the number of cases, they need another investigator. She requested that the Board put their request for \$600 on the ballot in March.

Audit Review: The board reviewed the Town audit draft in reference to the deficiencies and operating issues. The town is still in good financial shape. The board allocated some of fund balance for the Sheldon project in June. There is a 145,000 surplus for the year-end audit. The town signed the engineering contract for Sheldon and plan to begin in the spring.

Proposed solar project: Mary Ann shared that the proposal included the required 45 day advance notice. The project is similar to the previous project presented but is now under the name Westside Solar. DRB is meeting on Wed night about this project. Mary Ann invited the developer to attend a future board meeting. The public is invited to attend the DRB meeting as well as any select board meetings. H40 is the new law that gives the town guidance on what they can and can't do in the solar project. PSB has complete authority. The owner of Westside Solar has asked property owners for waivers. Mike Skaza asked the board to keep the public informed if they are approached for a waiver. There was discussion around property values if the solar

project is completed. Once again, it was shared that the Select Board does not have any authority with this project. Other questions and concerns included the following:

1. Is fixed equipment taxable? Yes.
2. What is the life span of the panels? 20 to 25 years.
3. Is the project covered by the fire department? Yes, the fire department would be involved if a fire occurred with the panels.
4. Would there be a glare that could affect traffic? The panels are made to absorb not to reflect.

7:00 is the time of the DBR meeting. There was discussion around if the proposal complies with the town plan.

The board requested that the DRB address concerns of citizens in reference to the screening. John made a motion to have the DRB examine Westside Solar, LLC project and determine compliance with the town plan and to address the concerns of the citizens. Chet seconded. Unanimously approved.

Town Manager's Report:

Water Line Freeze Policy: Never had anything in place in reference to frozen waterlines. Mary Ann presented a sample policy that Rutland City uses. We purchased some equipment to thaw water lines. The policy spells out responsibility and who is to pay when pipes freeze. We have a list of the problem locations now and if it gets really cold we would request them to run the water. Water system needs to be grounded. Danger of electrical wires. Policy to be adopted at the next meeting.

Marble Street Parking Lot – did some clear cutting. \$2500 to clear all the trees. They are also cleaning up the Pleasant Street cemetery.

Village Designation Renewal. Has to be renewed in Feb. Needs to be talked about in the town plan before we do the renewal. Discussed changing the boundaries to include Proctor and Barnes Street. There will be a revised town plan shortly. Property owners can get tax credits to rehab buildings and it shows benefits and how to take advantage of them.

Xmas party on Friday.

Next meeting: Will meet 3 times in January instead of December 28th.

Action Items:

Award bid 165 Marble Street: Motion to award bid to Despierre for \$18,000 by John and second by Chet. Unanimously approved. The other two bids were \$2,000 by Chad Lyons and Brian and Tina Little for \$10,200.

Appoint Planning Commission Members for 4 year terms: John made a motion to appoint Denis Lincoln, Carol Driscoll, and Leona Minard to a four year planning commission term. John seconded. Unanimously approved.

Planning Grant Agreement: Applied for 8,000 grant through VT Community Development Program and received it to develop gateways into town, streetscape plans and redevelopment of infill sites. Need to sign the grant. John made a motion to authorize Mary Ann to sign the grant agreement for 8,000 with no match. Chet seconded. Unanimously approved.

Board Member Concerns:

Chet: sewer plant control panel upgrade. \$20,000 is the quote given the town. Mary Ann will have Ed come in for the meeting of January 4th for further discussion. Did not close the Route 4 loan out this year, we won't have a payment until late next year.

John: Nothing

Sean: requests better reflectors on Route 4 highway bridges when slippery.

Adjournment:

Chet made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 and John seconded. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Charleen Bowen