

**Town of West Rutland
Select Board Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2017**

Present: John Harvey, Nick Notte, Chet Brown, Sean Barrows, Mitch Frankenberg, Mary Ann Goulette

Others Present: Michael Moser, Bill Kulig, Lisa Garcia, Pat Trepanier

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Sean Barrows at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda for Approval: Mitch made a motion and John seconded to approved the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes: Mitch made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction in the spelling of Mosher to Moser. John seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Concerns:

- Lisa Garcia was present to represent the board of listers to add input in the setting of the tax rate and the pending appeals.
- Mitch recused himself as a selectman to have input in public concerns. Mitch acknowledged Mary Ann what she did for work on the expansion of the Paw House. Mitch also thanked the DRB for the work they did. Mary Ann is on the REDC board also. Mike Moser explains the planning Commission writes the rules the DRB interprets them. Lyle Jepson from REDC should also be acknowledged. In full disclosure Mitch is considering working with Jeff Biasuzzi's modular construction with his expansion project.
- Planning Commission needs more members.

Action Items

Set Tax Rate: Talked about the potential drop in the grand list. VELCO and GMP have asked for reductions in their assessments totalling \$1 million. Lisa shared that utilities can get to file and establish fair market value on different calculations. Depreciated cost. Town as the right to accept numbers or not.

The listers asked for more information but Velco did not send in anything or request a hearing. They may or may not grieve it, the deadline is July 17. GMP requested a \$200,000 reduction in taxes and Velco requested an \$800,000 reduction. VELCO's request to Castleton was for \$200,000 reduction. VELCO received a letter of denial by the listers as they feel everyone should pay on their fair market value. The state calculates the depreciation. Mitch questioned the Town's ability to defend this issue. Sean asked if the board should protect themselves from having a great hit to the grand list. Discussion around the tax rate based on the current tax rate or the tax rate if we have to reduce by 1,000,000. Mary Ann shared that on a \$100,000 house the tax would be \$809 vs. \$743 per year. 2019 will be a town reappraisal. Mitch made a motion to set the municipal tax rate at .7634 according to grand list value of 1,906.123.50. Chet seconded. Unanimous.

Access Application – Charron - 180 Blanchard – wants to widening the driveway because of his planned sugaring operation. Residential area. Would be hauling the sap in. Chet made a motion and Mitch seconded to table the issue until we have more information.

Structure Grant Agreement Slason: Mary Ann said they got the grant for \$39,870. John made a motion and Mitch seconded to accept the grant and have Mary Ann sign it.

Amendment to sewer policy – Motion to accept draft by Chet and John seconded. Unanimously approved. Addition of article 14 to sewer ordinance.

Recreation Facilities Grant Program Application: We are applying for this facilities grant to fund the addition of a pavilion to our recreation area as proposed in our master plan. The grant is for \$25,000 and we will have to match it. The pavilion measures 48' by 70' and costs is \$53,321. The additional site work and electrical brings the total to \$60,601. It was agreed that Mary Ann will finalize the survey. Ronald McDonald grant is 5,000. The playground equipment costs are approximately 17,000 and we will wait until next year. Sean suggested looking for places to put half courts. There is \$94,000 in the recreational fund. Orvis is looking for places to do fly fishing. Motion made by John and seconded by Nick to sign the letter of support for the facility grant and use the recreation account to fund the remaining balance of \$30,601. Unanimous.

Town Manager's Report:

Vandalism- Crescent Street tree branches were broken. Motion by John and a second by Mitch to offer a \$100 reward to anyone that provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction for the destruction of the trees.

Acceptance of Credit card payments – Will be set up by August 1st. There will be a small charge to users.

Auditors will be here next week.

Neighborworks wants to apply for another VCDP scattered site grant.

Meeting with Rutland Town to discuss Business Route 4 corridor will be set for later this summer.

Board Member Concerns:

Chet – sign up for speed by his house. Only does south. Didn't keep speed down. Could move it anytime. Also reappraisal was not voted on. Still don't have the contract. Westway Mall has opening.

John – none

Mitch - none

Nick – Pleasant Street by his house had issues with water during heavy rain. Put a channel in front of their house. Paving company plugged neighbor's driveway and across from Nick's driveway. GW paving should not have done that. Will eventually cause a wash out.

Sean - Discussion on Clark Hill drainage issues. Mary Ann will research. Other issues discussed about peoples driveways draining into town roads. Clark Hill mowing needs attention also.

Approve Order: The board approved the orders.

Adjournment: Nick made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Chet seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Charleen Bowen