

## Selectboard Minutes July 26, 2021

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans, Andy Coyne, Tom Tolbert, Kate Ullman and Jessica Pollack.

Public Present: Karen Ameden, Charlie Peck, Paul Fraser, Bob Stomski, Terri Garland (Treasurer) and Captain Paul Samataro (WCSO)

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

There were no late additions to the agenda.

2. Approve the minutes from the July 12<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes from July 12th, seconded by Greg. Anne Connors should have an e in it. Greg made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Tom. 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

3. Presentation/update from Windham County Sheriff's Department

Captain Paul Samataro from Windham County Sheriff's Department. They owe us 123 hours from last year, the reason why they didn't make it because covid set the academy back, they lost 2 guys to the service and 2 others to other departments. They were short handed. They want to take those hours and use them in the winter months, having 2 deputies here or they can have more coverage through the week. Andy mentioned that the sheriff said they would refund money if that is what the town wanted.

Charlie Peck said the signs have helped with the parking issues at Hamilton Falls. It is good for him to be able to point to them when people are parking where they should not. The Sheriff's Department has more signs that they will drop off.

Charlie recommends the board request the proper study to be done on Depot Street and Water Street so that the speed limit can be set lower than 50 MPH. Jessica recommends making sure there are no other streets that also need the speed limit set. Charlie said we have all the other roads, except for Water and Depot Street.

Londonderry signed a contract with WCSO, which means there will be someone in the area more frequently. He will be working 40 hours between Jamaica and Londonderry. The hourly rate will be less, at \$41 an hour instead of \$52.

4. Update on Traffic Ordinance revisions

Charlie is working on a second draft. Jessica and Charlie agree that the 1984 ordinance should be completely scrapped and make it into a civil ordinance. Charlie is trying to make sure we have all the speed limits correct. He would like feedback from the Selectboard. Charlie will work with the town clerk to certify the ordinance. Londonderry has a traffic ordinance that is sculpted off the state guidelines. It is good to look at as an example.

#### 5. Update on Jamaica Fire Department

The Fire Department is lacking volunteers. They need firefighters but also need maintenance, cleaning, historian/photographer, fundraising, grant writing, people experienced with radio communications, someone to bring food when they are long calls, traffic control, vehicle maintenance, auditors, and a treasurer. Bob and Paul are going to host an idea session with the chiefs of adjoining towns on August 10th. They are trying to come up with a plan for all the communities to work together. Please have any dry hydrants on your property checked. They should be checked once a year. Also keep your house number by the side of the road.

#### 6. Treasurer's report – tax rate

The residential tax rate is down 11 cents, this is because they put a hold on the penalty for overspending per pupil. Tax bills should be out in the middle of August and taxes are due on October 1st.

We ended the year with a surplus in both accounts, the general and highway. The highway had extra money from covid. We had some grant money come in for stuff that was spent in the previous year. The general fund has a \$33,000 surplus from last fiscal year. The audit is in two weeks.

#### 7. Request for new computer in Lister's Office

We now have three listers in the office. Val's computer is the Microsoft surface, she has had some issues with it. There is money in the budget for computers.

#### 8. Next steps for Bridge 32 alternatives

We have until this fall to decide if the town wants to refurbish our existing bridge or build a new bridge. If you raised all the taxes in one year, a refurbished bridge would be about 6 cent increase and a new bridge would be an 18-cent increase.

Joel has been in contact with the Army Corps of Engineers to see if there are any common goals between them and the town.

#### 9. Public concerns

Karen Ameden has been talking to Chris Clark about planting 4 trees on Water Street where the houses once were. The trees would help with erosion problems. Andy said

there is a lot of wildlife in the field. He is okay with the trees but would not like to see it mowed on a yearly basis. Tom, Karen, and Andy will meet to see where the trees would be planted.

Pikes Falls swimming hole is still a problem. People continue to park in the road, blocking traffic.

10. Review time sheets for town office, listers, highway and transfer station

11. Review pay orders

Tom at 8:27 p.m., "I move to find that premature general public knowledge of a health issue would clearly place the homeowner at a substantial disadvantage, if the Selectboard were to discuss this in public." Seconded by Greg, all in favor.

Tom "I move that we enter into executive session to discuss a health issue under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes." Seconded by Greg.

Exit executive session at 8:36 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall