

TOWN OF WORCESTER, VERMONT

MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD-REGULAR MEETING

19 Nov. 2018

Selectboard members present: Ted Lamb (via phone), and Paul Hill, Jr.

Selectboard members absent:

Guests present: Katie Winklejohn, Cheri Goldstein, Will Sutton, Peter Fitz , Phil Etter, Sue Premo, Toni Keading., Bob Heiser (VT land Trust)

Ted called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

The minutes for the 11/5//18 meeting were reviewed. No additions or corrections were proposed. Ted made a motion to approve, 2nd by Paul. Minutes were approved.

Ted made a motion to modify the agenda, adding the topic to appoint Cheri Goldstein to the board, replacing Chris Casey. Chris resigned from the board last month due to his family's move to Woodbury. Ted moved to appoint Cheri to the board. Paul seconded the motion and Cheri's appointment was approved.

Ted also suggested we add to the agenda the issues concerning late filing fees for those residents delinquent filing of the homestead declaration form.

Fire Department report - Will Suttton reported...

- The recent bad weather has caused several car "slide offs", downed trees in roadways and a handful of medical calls. The "Fast Squad" is in a "state of flux." Peter Fitz is helping and on board. Mike from Middlesex is also willing to stay on the squad and help cover calls.
- The Fire Department has a low membership, with seven on staff. Will wants to work at attracting new, young volunteers. Ted suggested having an open house, featuring equipment and the trucks. Will mentioned possibly hold an event like a pancake breakfast, maybe after the first of the year.
- Equipment status is good. The department will get four new air packs next month.
- Will said he hopes to have level funding in the department's budget for the coming year. Cheri asked Will to compose a written recommendation (could be as an email) and submit that to the board.

Town Clerk's report – Katie Winklejohn reported...

She received three new requests to waive the late filing fee for Homestead Declaration forms. This has been primarily a reoccurring situation do to errors on part of the State Department of Taxes. Ted moved to waive the penalties. Cheri seconded. The motion passed. Cheri asked if there were any more requests coming. Katie said not that she knows and she thinks "now things will smooth out."

New Business:

The select board has been approached by a group of citizens hoping to acquire land, with the help of the Town, in order to conserve it as an asset for limited recreational use. Phil Etter, Sue Premo and Toni Keading along with Bob Heiser from the Vermont Land Trust sat in to describe the two parcels and their conversations to date with the sellers (Michael Colby and Stacy Burnstein). There is a sales agreement structured, but no other financial info, such as sources and uses of funding, is set at this time. The VLT's Bob Heiser expressed a positive interest in assisting with the acquisition, helping to find additional funding. Overall, the board felt this has possibilities but first would need more information. Bob H. felt tht VHCB may have funding to get appraisal reports done of the parcels. Once the value is given, the group will discuss next steps with the sellers and report to the board.

Ted moved that the board vote in adopting the recently updated Local Hazardous Management Plan (LHMP). A public hearing was schedule prior to this meeting, with no residents showing to discuss the plan. Ted moved we adopt the LMHP. Paul seconded. Motion passed.

At 7:20 PM, Ted moved to go into an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

At 7:35 PM, the board came out of the executive session.

Cheri recommended that the board direct Brian Powers, Road Commissioner to gather info about the Road Department's staff, such as skill levels, certifications acquired and equipment operations ability. Also to map out individual training plans for the next two years. The board agreed to the recommendation and will ask Brian to respond in writing so the information can be reviewed at the next select board meeting in December.

Old Business:

Ted asked if the town hall was painted. Katie said we need temperatures in the 50s before tht can be finished and she needs to get bids for the installation of gutters on the hall. The inside work should be put off until the painting is finished.

Katie reminds that we will need to begin drafting the budget. So far this year, "we've been hammered by heating, gas and salt costs."

Public Input: None

Correspondence:

None

Announcements: The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the town office on 19 November 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Bills: Signed as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Attest: