

# TOWN OF WORCESTER, VERMONT

## MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING

05 August 2019

**Select Board members present:** Ted Lamb, Ben Jones and Paul Hill, Jr.

**Select Board members absent:**

**Guests present:** Katie Winklejohn, Brian Powers, Stew Clark, Toni Keading, Bill Arrand, Susan Arrand, Ned Swanberg (DEC), John Brigati,

Ted called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The minutes for the 17 July 2019 meeting, moved by Ted and seconded by Paul, were approved.

**Public Input:** .None

**Road Commissioner's Report** – Brian has been in contact with Greg Donahue from Fresh Coat Asphalt to come up with a plan in patching Minister Brook Road for the amount of approximately \$35,000. The estimate is that the \$35K would cover about 1200 feet of road area. Brian intends on selecting the exact areas that would get repaired on the road. Greg has been slow to respond to Brian about when he could start and finish the project so Brian is looking into another paver that might be more available and might get more done for the same amount of money.

Brian also discussed...

- His contact with Jim Cota at the State regarding his formula for allocating road repair funds. Brian was specifically asking about the grant funds for emergency road repairs. Brian and Katie had been successful in gaining a \$100K grant for a culvert repair on Eagle Ledge Rd. Jim seems open to the town in applying for emergency grant funds. Brian pointed out that under the present funding formula for towns, it could be as long as 8 years before Worcester would be approved for funding. Brian also asked Jim if he would come to a Selectboard meeting to discuss the funding formula. Jim didn't answer Brian's question. Ted has suggested we develop a plan about paving and addressing the formula issue;
  - Patch/repair best we can, now, with what we have for funds
  - Call on Jim to talk about the formula and how we might access funds;
  - And if Jim doesn't respond, the board should approach our state legislative delegates about helping us with this problem.
- Brian reported that he will soon be doing his staff performance evaluations and share the results with board as they become available.

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- At 6:57, the board went into executive session.
- At 7:09, the board came out of executive session.
- The Board approved Katie as eligible to receive \$710/month, until 12/31/19, to be used in acquiring health insurance coverage through the VLCT/BC-BS plan the town currently uses for other eligible town employees.
- The board approved Brian to receive funds representing 160 hours of accrued/unpaid leave time.

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

- Tax bills have been delivered and the first install is due 03 September 2019. Susan questioned why Sept and not the typical 15 August date. Katie explained that the State had delayed in setting the education tax rate and, even though the Town had calculated its rate, she decided that, in order to avoid mailing two bills, the town would wait for the State's rate and mail to residents. The regulations require a 30 days' notice period for the due date of taxes and the bills were mailed 03 August; hence, the Town due date of 0-3 September.
- Katie has arranged for a pressure washing of the Town Hall and offices.
- She has a quote coming for the repair of the siding on the buildings.
- She will look into quotes for getting gutters on the buildings as previously discussed (north side of TH and office.)

**New Business:** Ned Swanberg, a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Regional Floodplain Manager/ permit specialist, came to the meeting and presented a power point presentation to the board about "Flood Hazard and River Corridor Management Resources in Vermont." Ned explained the background in the current development of state regulations concerning development around water ways in Worcester. His hand outs listed many points of information and resources to help Towns to be compliant with regulations. Copies of these hand-outs/resources are available in the Town Clerk's office.

The Board decided on the next steps, to:

- Make available on the Town website the "Expectations for Development in Worcester" information (approved by the Board and copy -see attached).
- Appoint the Worcester Planning Commission as the Board of Adjustment, in accordance with 24 VSA §4448, with duties as described in 24 VSA Chapter 117, et al.
- Appoint Stew Clark as the Administrative Officer, with regards to administering the regulations of 24 VSA §4448.

Ted asked Ned if the greenhouse that was recently installed on the site formerly known as the Old Tavern Farm, north of the village on Rte. 12 needed to be moved and Ned said yes, the improvements were in the river corridor. Ned offered to work with the property owner(s) in what would be needed to have the greenhouse be in compliance with state regs.

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**Old Business:**

- See Katie's comments about Town Hall maintenance, etc.
  
- RE; pets in the emergency shelter? No, pets are not allowed in the shelter.

**Correspondence:** None

**Bills:** Signed as presented.

**Announcements:** The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be held at the town office on 20 August 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Attest: Paul Hill, Jr.