

Town of Londonderry
Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2018 - 7:00pm
Twitchell Building - 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT

The Select Board met from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM in public session to discuss the proposed budget.

Board Members Present: Jim Ameden Bob Forbes, Georgianne Mora, Tom Cavanagh

Board Members Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Tina Labeau, Robert Nied, Bruce Frauman, Kelly Pajala, Dwight Johnson, Kelly Capen, Doug Friant, Marge Fish

1. Call meeting to order

Acting Select Board Chair **Jim Ameden** called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

- 2. Additions or deletions to the agenda:** **George** moved to add appointments to the Planning Commission and the Traffic Committee as well as an update on policing by the Vermont State Policing to the agenda, **seconded by Tom, approved by all in favor.**

3. Minutes:

Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2017. **George moved to approve the minutes for the December 18, 2017 Select Board minutes, seconded by Bob, approved by all in favor.**

4. Select board pay orders:

Pay orders distributed to Select Board members. Pay orders reviewed and signed.

5. Announcements/Correspondence:

George announced the need for residents to re-register for *Vermont Alert* following an update to the system and requested that a notice be added to the Town website.

6. Liquor Control Board:

Kelly notified the Board of a liquor license renewal request by Clark's IGA and receipt of payment. **George moved to approve the license renewal, seconded by Tom approved by all in favor.**

7. Visitors and Concerned Citizens:

Doug Friant asked if there were any large budget issues not included in the warning for Town Meeting. **Jim** stated that there were no additions or amendments dealing with budget issues.

Tina stated that there will be two budgets to approve. **Kelly** reported that Doug had signed up for Moderator Update Training.

8. Town Officials Business

- a. **Jim** stated that the Select Board must act on the resignation of Paul Gordon. **George moved to accept Paul's resignation, seconded by Tom, approved by all in favor.** **Jim** stated that Paul was a very productive Chair and always had the Town's best interest at heart. **Jim** further stated that Paul will be sorely missed.

- b. **Robert** reported that, in response to Jim's request, he had developed a new more streamlined employee evaluation form which adds a criterion for safety and an acknowledgement that the employee has read the Town's Personnel Policy. **George moved to approve the new employee evaluation form, seconded by Bob, approved by all in favor.**
- c. **Robert** reported on individuals, who were otherwise homeless, living in a camper on a property on Thompsonburg Road. **Robert** stated that he had been working for some time to address the issue from both a zoning enforcement perspective and the safety and well-being of the people living in the camper. He reported that the residents of the camper had finally moved to a shelter in Springfield and that the owner of the camper had committed to moving it within the next several weeks. **Robert** added that the issue had underscored the difficulty in addressing zoning non-compliance particularly those complicated by health and safety concerns. **Robert** stated that contrary to statements made by some, the Town did not force the residents of the camper out but in fact worked for weeks with social service agencies to ensure that they found safe alternative housing. **Robert** added that while the Town is committed to addressing zoning non-compliance it would not do so at the expense of the health and safety.
- d. **George** discussed the appointment of Dwight Johnson to the Planning Commission stating that some concern has been raised about the potential for a conflict between Dwight's current service of the Development Review Board and his proposed appointment to the Planning Commission. **Robert** stated that the issue for consideration is whether the DRB's role of applying the Zoning Bylaws could encourage a member of both boards to advocate for changes to the same Bylaws by the Planning Commission. **Robert** added that he does not believe there is any legal or ethical conflict but would encouraged the Select Board to consider and discuss service by one individual on both boards. **Bob** stated that there could be a conflict. **George** stated that Dwight's service on the Planning Commission would be a benefit to the Town. **Bob made a motion to approve Dwight's appointment to the Planning Commission, seconded by George, approved by all in favor.**

9. Transfer Station

Tom reminded everyone to ensure they obtain an updated permit for the Transfer Station from the Town Office, either in-person or by mail.

10. Road and Bridges

Jim stated that it has been a very rough month with extreme weather making road clearing and maintenance difficult. **Jim** added that there have been some complaints about snow clearing and that the road crew has looked into improving its approach and methods and is confident that there will be improvements going forward. **Jim** added that the guys have been working very hard. **George** thanked the road crew for being away from their families and working on Christmas Day. **Jim** reported that the Town has used 742 tons of salt, 899 yards of sand and 2,138 gallons of fuel oil thus far and that 706 gallons of oil has been used in Town buildings.

11. Old Business

- a. Appropriations – **Marge Fish** asked to address the Board concerning an appropriation request by *Bring Back Bromley Observation Tower*. Marge explained a proposal to rebuild an observation tower on Bromley Mountain, detailing the previous tower’s history, the new tower’s proposed construction and the potential economic and other benefits to the surrounding communities. **Marge** also distributed a brochure illustrating the project. **Jim** asked how the Green Mountain Club arrived with the estimated cost figure for the tower. Marge stated that if the tower was not built the money would be returned. **Jim** stated that the Town could put all appropriation requests on the warning, go item by item or deny all appropriation requests and have requestors submit petitions. A lengthy discussion followed about the process for considering appropriations and for requiring requestors to submit petitions. **Doug** provided clarification on splitting out individual appropriation requests and warning them separately for Town Meeting. **Kelly** stated that some appropriations already have their own Articles. **Jim** stated that the Board had to review the appropriation requests, line-by-line. A lengthy discussion followed during which each appropriation was considered.

The Board said NO to four (4) appropriation requests and YES to twenty-five (25) appropriation requests. **Jim** stated that the four denied appropriations will require petitions in order to move forward.

The approved appropriation requests are as follows:

Champion Fire Co # 5 - \$20,000
Senior Solutions - \$850
Flood Brook Athletic Assn - \$2,500
GNAT TV - \$2,000
Grace Cottage Foundation - \$750
Green Up Day Vermont - \$100
Vermont Rural Fire Protection - \$100
SeVEDS - \$5, 307
Londonderry Conservation Fund - \$1,000
Londonderry Town Parade - \$1,000
Volunteer Rescue Squad- \$6,000
Mental Health Services - \$1,513
Neighborhood Connections - \$5,000
American Red Cross - \$500
RSVP - \$415
SEVCA - \$1,700
South Londonderry Library Association - \$10,000
The Collaborative - \$1,000
Valley Cares - \$2,742
Visiting Nurse Alliance - \$7,000
Southeastern Watershed Alliance - \$410

Windham County Historical - \$250
Windham County Youth Services \$315
Woman's Freedom Center - \$800
Bring Back Bromley Observation Tower - \$5,000

The denied appropriation requests are as follows, with explanations:

The Current - \$1,000 (No regular bus routes in Londonderry.)

Mountain Valley Medical Clinic - \$12,000 (Clinic funded through Springfield Medical Center.)

West River Montessori - \$2,000 (Request not specific enough.)

Gerda's Equine Rescue - \$100 (Request did not include financial statement.)

- b. Budget – **Kelly** stated that the draft budget will be posted on the website.
- c. Sand and Salt Shed update – **Bob** stated that construction has been hampered by weather but the walls are up and the trusses are on site. There was a lengthy discussion of concerns over salt coming into contact with the uncured concrete walls of the shed and the option of protecting the walls with a chemical coating or plastic sheeting. **Bob** stated that he was not in favor of using plastic and would recommend waiting until spring to consider any coating of the walls. **Doug** suggested the Town consult with the concrete company about curing and salt contact. **Bob moved to defer coating the concrete walls until spring, seconded by George, approved by all in favor.**
- d. Wall painting update – **Robert** updated the Board on the status of the Ed Brown case, stating that Mr. Brown has not been responsive to the Brattleboro Community Social Justice Center and the Center has returned the issue to The State's Attorney. The State's Attorney has given the Town an additional thirty (30) days to negotiate a resolution with Mr. Brown. **Robert** stated that George drafted a letter to Mr. Brown giving him to February 1, 2018 to meet with the Town. **George** reiterated the Town's desire to reach an equitable settlement with Mr. Brown and avoid the matter going to the courts.
- e. Traffic Safety Committee – **George** reported that the Traffic Safety Board now has a full complement of volunteers and will work on establishing meeting dates and times. **Tom moved to appoint Bill Barclay to the Traffic Safety Committee, seconded by Bob, approved by all in favor.**
- f. Policing Coverage - **Robert** reported on the resource issues facing the Vermont State Police and the inability of VSP to meet their contract commitments with the Town on policing coverage. **Robert** stated that it was unlikely that VSP could provide more than 10-12 hours per week of coverage going forward and that the Board would be faced with a difficult decision when the current contract with VSP expires in March. **Robert** indicated that he would confer with VSP and provide an update on their availability as they get closer to contract expiration.

11. New Business

- a. Tax Sale – Tina asked the Board to approve the expenses associated with the proposed delinquent tax sale, including legal fees and advertising expenses. **George moved to approve the expenses associated with the tax sale, seconded by Tom, approved by all in favor.**

- b. TOPP RFP – **Robert** stated that the RFP for the TOPP project to complete the first phases of renovation of the Twitchell Building should be issued soon and stated that the Town has an existing contract with an engineering firm to assist with the RFP language and the evaluation of bids. **Bob moved to approve the issuance of an RFP for excavation and waterproofing work on the Twitchell Building, seconded by Tom, approved by all in favor.**
- c. Warning Language – **Tina** provided an update on warning language and stated that the Planning Commission was preparing an Article for Town Meeting. **Tina** also stated that the Town Report cover will include photographs of Steve, Clyde and Clara Prouty.

13. Adjourn

George moved to adjourn, seconded by Tom, approved by all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Signatures of Approval:

DRAFT