

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY
Select Board Meeting Minutes
7-16-18, 7 PM
100 Old School Street, Londonderry, VT

Board Members Present: Georgianne Mora, Tom Cavanagh, Taylor Prouty, Bob Forbes

Board Members Absent: Jim Ameden (vacation)

Others in Attendance: Robert Nied, Tina Labeau, Sandra Clark, Bruce Frauman, Caroline & John Jopling, Martha & Dick Dale, Sandy Willow, Jim Wilson, Bob & Barb Wells, Kim Thompson, Gale Kuhlberg, Kelly Capen

1. Call meeting to order

Select Board Vice Chair **George Mora** called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

- a. **Bob** moved to add comments from resident **Kim Thompson** to the agenda, seconded by **Tom**, approved by all in favor.
- b. **Bob** moved to add an update on the **Ed Brown** case to the agenda, seconded by **Taylor**, approved by all in favor.
- c. **Tom** moved to add an update on the **Traffic Committee** to the agenda, seconded by **Bob**, approved by all in favor.

3. Minutes Approval

Tom moved to approve the minutes from 7-2-18, seconded by **Taylor**, approved by all in favor.

4. Select Board Pay Orders

Select Board pay orders distributed, reviewed and signed.

5. Announcements and Correspondence

Robert read a notice from the State of Vermont Public Utility Commission announcing that the period for filing public comments, notices of intervention, motions to intervene and requests for hearing related to the **Norris Solar Project** will end on July 30, 2018. **Robert** stated that the project has received local approval from the Town of Londonderry Development Review Board.

6. Visitors and Concerned Citizens

Resident **Kim Thompson** discussed her concerns about the two derelict building on **Middletown Road**, stating that that the community has been patient but wants to see action taken to address the problem because the two buildings present a safety issue and have an unsightly impact on the neighborhood which impacts businesses and the resale of homes. **Ms. Thompson** referenced language in the Town of Londonderry Zoning Bylaw which addresses the requirement to demolish abandoned buildings and restore the lots. **George** stated that the Town is moving to address the two buildings. **Robert** recounted the history of the two buildings and previous attempts to negotiate a resolution with the property owners. **Bob** stated that he supports consulting with the Town Attorney on the matter.

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Bob moved to approve consulting with the Town Attorney on the matter of the derelict buildings, seconded by Taylor, approved by all in favor. **Dick Dale** commented that the Select Board has not acted on the two building in the past using property rights as an excuse. **Mr. Dale** stated that such a position is ultimately not in the best interest of the public and that it is the responsibility of the Select Board to act. **George** stated that this is the first time this issue has been before the current Select Board and that they are taking the matter seriously and looking into options for addressing it. **Bob Wells** commented that there has to be a remedy if the property owners can't afford to take down the buildings and suggested that members of the community could get together and help. **George** stated that there was nothing to stop private citizens from assisting the property owners in addressing the problem and it is always admirable if the community works to help resolve local issues. A discussion followed about the costs associated with zoning enforcement and the need to enforce zoning regulations for the benefit of the community.

7. Town Officials Business

- a. **Tom Moved to formalize the bid award for the Town Office emergency generator in the amount of \$26,485.00 to Brook Field Services, seconded by Taylor, approved by all in favor.**
- b. **Tina** announced that the Municipal Tax Rate was going to be just 1/3 of a cent higher than last year, or .32512. **Bob moved to accept the tax rate, seconded by Tom, approved by all in favor.**
- c. **Sandra** discussed this year's tax penalty and requested that because the penalties represented such a small amount of money, they be waived. **Bob moved to waive the tax penalties, seconded by Taylor, George recused, approved by all in favor**
- d. (Enforcement of derelict building previously addressed as part of agenda item 6.)
- e. **Robert** reported receiving several complaints about excessive speed on Thompsonburg Road following the repaving.
- f. **Robert** reported that VLCT was scheduled to conduct an inspection of the Williams dam on 7-17-18 to determine if they would underwrite downstream damage coverage for the dam. **Robert** stated that the dam was currently uninsured and that Vermont State DEC has rated the dam in "poor" condition following a 2015 State inspection.
- g. **Robert** reported that the search for an assistant for the Town /Zoning Administrator had not yet identified a qualified candidate with the necessary availability and the search would be extended.
- h. **George** provided an update on the status of the Traffic Safety Committee's work in collaboration with the Windham Regional Commission. **Kelly Capen** expressed concern that Under Mountain Road was not considered as part of the traffic studies being undertaken. **George** explained the process for selecting the location and scope of the traffic studies.

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Dick Dale further explained the approach and objectives of the Traffic Committee as it relates to traffic studies. A discussion followed concerning speed and safety issues on Town roads and the work and focus of the Traffic Safety Committee. **Robert** reported that coverage by the Vermont State Police was down to just a few hours per week.

- i. **Robert** provided an update on the ED Brown Case reporting that a Diversion Program run by Youth Services in Brattleboro will decide the outcome of the case, assuming Mr. Brown agrees to cooperate with the Diversion process.
- j. **Sandra** reported that the reappraisal has been completed, a new grand list has been published and new property maps are available.
- k. **George** thanked Lister Sandra Clark and her staff for doing such a thorough and excellent job.

8. Transfer Station

Tom reported that they are looking into the costs associated with getting the tires of the machine transferred to the Transfer Station filled in order to reduce punctures from nails. **Tom** discussed a possible modification to the backhoe. He stated that he will look into the costs and if it will be more than \$500 he will come back to the Board for approval. **Tom** stated that there have been no further issues with bears in the transfer station after the electric fences were installed.

9. Road and Bridges

No report.

10. Old Business

None

11. New Business

None

12. Adjourn

Taylor moved to adjourn at 8:18 pm, seconded by Tom, approved by all in favor.

Approval Signatures: