

**Approved Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Regular Meeting
Monday January 5, 2015**

Present: Bev Ash, Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt

Absent: Cory Austin, Marilyn Dresser

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Fred Cook moved to approve the minutes of the December 29 Special Meeting as presented; Bev Ash seconded; passed.

Visitors/ Hear and act on reports of Town Officers and Committees

- Peggy Willey reviewed ad copy for the Feb 5th meeting on E.coli in the Ompompanoosuc for the Conservation Commission's newsletter and the listserv. No objections were raised and she was given the go-ahead.
- Sheriff Bill Bohnyak came to discuss policing issues and concerns.
- Representative Sarah Copeland Hanzas discussed her role in the upcoming Charter approval process; revisiting changes made to the Open Meeting Law in last year's session; concerns about education and transportation funding; and other topics coming before the legislature in the upcoming session.

Budget/Review Treasurer's Financial Statements/Budget

- Update re: NEMRC consulting - So far, this arrangement is working well. The NEMRC consultant, Penny Muzzy, will be here three days in January. Besides routine accounts payable and payroll, she will complete the W-2's and be available for the outside auditors at the end of the month. Between now and the Charter vote, we may still need someone to hold the title of Treasurer with limited authority and duties (at a negotiated lower rate of pay) to provide clerical support to the consultant.
- The FY2015 Projected Cash Flow Certificate was reviewed. While the Town did not use its Tax Anticipation Line of Credit in 2014, it is still prudent to complete the process should the Town need to draw on it in 2015. Bev Ash moved to allow Delsie to submit the FY2015 Projected Cash Flow Certificate to Merchants Bank in anticipation of the possible need for a Tax Anticipation Line of Credit; Fred Cook seconded; passed.

Roads

- Research concerning gating of Brown Road – Preliminary research indicates that the gating of Brown Road has come up a couple of times before. Records indicate that the road was thrown up from the old Whitney Place – now the Lodge. The gate appears to be on the remaining Class IV portion of the road. The Selectboard expressed concern about the precedent this could set for gating other Class IV roads. A letter will be drafted to Richter asking for removal of the gate from the Town highway.

Public Safety/Ordinance Enforcement

- 2015 contract with Orange County Sheriff Dept – The Board discussed issues raised in earlier meeting with the Sheriff, and more frequent communication concerning where and when deputies are deployed. Fred Cook moved to sign the contract and keep it at the same amount as last year (\$7,200); Bev seconded; passed.

Old Business

- Review schedule or rents for office space - Delsie will print out and bring the room by room amounts that were discussed, for further discussion and approval.

- Renewal of Appraisal/Assessment Contract w/ Vermont Appraisal Company – This will be the same as last year; we are waiting for the document to sign.
- Ideas for PACIF Equipment Grant - will be discussed later.

New Business

- Tasks and schedule for development of Town Report – All the appropriations people have been heard from, Rhonda prepared the year-end Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector Reports before she left. The warning should be ready for approval at the next meeting; the only appropriation report not yet received is from the Fire Department. The Warning for Town Meeting must be posted between Jan 22nd & Feb 1st.
- Treasurer's computer –An estimate for additional computer work station is forthcoming from Kevin Tombs at Upper Valley Networking who always takes care of our computers. Looking for basic “slave” computer with a dedicated printer for printing checks. We may be able to get a desk and chair at the State’s surplus furniture warehouse. Fred offered to make the trip with his truck.

Bev Ash moved to sign the orders; Fred Cook seconded; passed.

Review Correspondence

- Two Rivers Ottauquechee - Our flood hazard mitigation plan is expiring this year. The Selectboard will pass this along to the Planning Commission who is currently working on flood resilience chapters for the Town Plan.
- Highway mileage and weight limits need to be filed, which can be done at the next meeting.

Upcoming Events

- February 2, 2015 6:30 p.m. - First Hearing on the Charter for appointive Treasurer
- February 5, 2015 6:30 p.m. - Tri-Town Ompompanoosuc Watershed Basin Informational Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.