

Approved Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday January 16, 2017 5:30 pm

Present: Bev Ash, Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt, Steve Malinoski, Al Pfeiffer
Visitors: Tom Baccei, Sam Petrone

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

Bev moved to approve the Minutes of the January 2, 2017 Regular Meeting with two minor corrections; Al seconded; passed.

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

- Tom Baccei - Tom requested that the question of allowing the postmark to determine the timeliness of property tax payments be put on the ballot for the Town Meeting. As a point of information, Delsie clarified that the question belonged in the Warrant, where it would be voted on at the meeting on Saturday. Delsie noted that she had already discussed the issue with the Treasurer, who is agreeable with accepting postmarks. The specific wording had been researched, but the Selectboard had not had the chance to discuss it in open meeting. However, there was consensus that the Selectboard had no opposition to changing procedures and incorporating postmarks into the tax collection question routinely put before the Town. Sam Petrone came later with a similar request.

- Update Tri-Town Lake Fairlee Dam Committee: Steve/Fred - Delsie asked that Steve or Fred follow-up with the Tri-Town Commission about whether a annual report was forthcoming.

Review Treasurer's Financial Statements/Journal Entries

- Review/discuss of Treasurer's research re: budget surplus (email forwarded) - Delsie had shared the Treasurer's research on procedures and thresholds for applying a budget surplus to the following year's budget. No action required.

Roads

- Review/approve annual certificate of highway mileage - Fred moved to approve and sign the required certificate of highway mileage; Steve seconded; passed. There were no changes in highway mileage last year.

Public Safety/Ordinance Enforcement

- Dogs - Upper Valley Humane Society contract - After discussion, Steve moved to sign the Upper Valley Humane Society contract which sets the terms for sheltering stray animals; Fred seconded; passed.

Old Business

- Update: Community Building repair/insurance claim - Delsie has received an estimate for taping, priming, and painting. The floor appears to be done, though they re-covered the drain in the office floor.

New Business

- Review Town Report materials to date - Reports from Town organizations and officials for inclusion in the Town Report continue to come in. Delsie is following up on the remainder; it is expected to go the press at the end of next week.
- Discuss consultation with Town Attorney re: wording of warrant articles - After discussion, it was decided to briefly consult with the Town Attorney on the wording of ballot questions related to readopting the Town Plan, approval of future town plans, and the change in the wording for the tax receipts.
- Warn special selectboard meeting to review/approve 2017 Town Meeting warning - The Special Meeting will be warned for Tuesday, January 24 at 5:30 p.m.
- Review Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and Coefficient of Disparity (COD) report and implications for reappraisal - The latest report from Property Valuation and Review indicates that while the Common Level of Appraisal is dropping slowly, the Coefficient of Dispersion is rising fairly quickly and indicates that a State-ordered reappraisal could come sooner rather than later should the trend continue. Delsie noted that the Town has not filled the Board of Listers in several years and Lister Janet Austin has done the work of three, a situation that is not sustainable.
- Renewal of Bean Hall vacant building liability insurance - Bev moved to renew the vacant building liability policy on Bean Hall; Steve seconded; passed.
- Jenn Shatney - Jenn is on the Bean Hall Committee, and she's putting together a project on Bean Hall with four students from Dartmouth School of Business as a student project. It involves doing a computer model, marketing it, what the building would need, talking to local businesspeople, and so forth. Delsie noted that to be accurate, any study of town-owned vacant space should also include vacancies within the Community Building.

Bev moved to sign the orders; Steve seconded; passed.

Upcoming Events

- update/reminder schedule ARC for completion of thermostat installation

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.