

Approved Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday, February 17, 2020 6pm

Present: Beverly Jo Ash, Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt, Steve Malinoski

Clerk: Nina Schwartz

Visitors: Eleanor Roberts, Chris Recchia and Irv Thomae (EC Fiber), Peggy Burden

The meeting was called to order by Delsie Hoyt at 6:00 pm.

Hearing re: rental code violations and intent to issue Health Order (with Selectboard in its role as Board of Health)

- Several issues reported by the tenant, which were shared with the landlord, Eleanor Roberts
 - Roberts reports heat complaint should be null and void – tenants notified at the time of rental the furnace initially was not functioning, but landlord offered wood stove. Tenant instead wanted to use their own pellet stove. Landlord paid for chimney to be relined to accommodate a pellet stove. Health Officer reiterated that landlord is responsible for functioning heating plant.
 - Signed lease with such stipulations exists for this rental agreement
 - Has not fixed any other problems, as she has not received rent since October 2019. Health Officer reiterated that it is not the function of the Board of Health to mediate between landlord and tenant; function is solely to assure that the unit meets all State Rental Codes.
 - Tenants in process of being evicted – refuses hand and mail delivery service of Notice of Eviction
 - Landlord does not intend to re-rent afterwards, will be resuming occupancy
- Delsie, as Health Officer, recommends amending Health Order by deleting first three orders noted and stipulating that should the property be rented out again, however the Public Health Order will remain in effect the mentioned issues must first be addressed to be in compliance. Otherwise, it is a private dwelling and does not apply
- Bev moved to amend Public Health Order as suggested, Steve seconded; unanimously approved

Minutes of the February 3rd meeting were reviewed. Bev made motion to approve minutes, as is, Steve seconded; approved.

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

- EC Fiber: Chris Recchia (Managing Director of ValleyNet)/Irv Thomae (Norwich rep on governing board of EC Fiber since 2008, now chairman) attended to explain the operation and obligations of the town with participating, if so desired
 - Approximately 4,200 customers in 23 towns
 - Communication Union District (CUD) – first in VT, legislature approved. Has status of a municipality, but without eminent domain and taxing authority
 - CUD statute: Title 30, Chapter 8, SB has right to request to join to governing district (town-wide vote not needed).
 - Symmetrical speeds of 25, 100, 300 and 800 Mbps available, no contract required
 - Anticipated 2-3 year project completion (design: 1 yr, make-ready: 1 yr, construction: 1 yr)
 - Obligations: no financial obligation for the town, but can ask for location for 10' x 10' hub with 24/7 access
 - Each town has at least one delegate w/1-2 alternates
 - Steve made motion to submit letter of interest to participate, Bev seconded; unanimously approved

- Conservation Commission: solicited comments on Natural Resources Inventory RFP
- Lister: received assessment on solar array from West Fairlee Solar, LLC

Review Treasurer's Financial Statements/Journal Entries

Roads/Land

- Steve made motion to discontinue segment on Preserve Rd/Tebbetts Notch Rd, as discussed in prior meetings (April and May 2019). Fred seconded; unanimously approved
- Certificate of Highway Mileage: Class IV roads reduced by .34 miles. Fred made motion to approved certificate, as revised; Steve seconded; unanimously approved
- Buck Hill Rd ROW: re: reset of Green Mountain Power line poles
 - Fred Cook (Tree Officer) reports most trees along pole line are poor quality and likely would be cut for firewood
 - Delsie reports one of the landowners amenable to collaborate with project, the other has not yet been approached
- Summer projects planning: deferred

Public Safety/Ordinance Enforcement

- E911: SB affirms E911 Coordinator's addressing practices re: Scrutton Hill Rd camp, as dictated by State E911 Board standards

Old Business

- Tax sale properties, Beanville and King Hill properties: deferred
- VLCT Local Government Day: re: energy and transportation issues. Delsie recapped what was discussed/reviewed and will share further details via email to SB members
- Solutions for compliance with food scrap collection (July 1, 2020): deferred

New Business

- Resolution for joining EC Fiber (see above) Steve made a motion that West Fairlee formally notify the EC Fiber Board of its interest in joining the CUD; Bruce seconded; approved.
- Annual SB timesheets: completed
- WFHS: Steve gave access to Dave Gibeau access last week to Bean Hall to address water seepage issue at doorway
- Process Excess Weight Permits: one

Other Business/Agenda Items (to be acted on at next regular meeting)

- Information meeting on budget: Monday, February 24, 2020, 7pm
- Consistent cyber storage/back-up: deferred

Sign Orders

Bev made motion to sign orders; Steve seconded the motion; unanimously passed.

Review Correspondence

Upcoming Events

Bev made motion to adjourn meeting, Steve seconded; unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.