

**Approved Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday November 7, 2016**

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

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

Steve moved to approve the Minutes of the October 17, 2016 Regular Meeting as corrected; Fred seconded; passed.

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

- Tom Baccei attended the meeting to contest the penalty levied for late-payment of his property taxes. The payment was postmarked November 11 and was not received in the Town Office by the 5pm November 13th deadline. Hoyt explained that the voters, not the Selectboard or Treasurer, decide at Town Meeting what the deadline for payment will be and whether postmarks are acceptable. She noted that acceptance of postmarks had come up for discussion at Town Meeting in the past, but the voters had decided against changing the practice. Baccei asserted the 8% penalty was unconstitutional and that there should be some sort of date stamp employed by the Treasurer to confirm that payments were, indeed late. Hoyt noted that the voters decided that the Delinquent Tax Collector should be paid by the 8% penalty, rather than a salary, to assure that outstanding taxes are collected. The Selectboard does not have the authority to waive the penalty; but an explanation of the limited grounds for Tax Abatement was distributed. This information is also included in the Delinquent Tax Collector's letters.
- Kevin Petrone, who had also received a late payment penalty, asked who supervises the work of the Town Clerk. Hoyt responded that the Town Clerk is an independent elected official and answers only to voters. The Selectboard is responsible for assuring fiscal transparency across all Town transactions and activities.
- Update Tri-Town Lake Fairlee Dam Committee: Steve/Fred -
 - Financing options for dam overage vis a vis Attorney Giuliani email circulated - The overage was discussed; the final amount is not yet known.
 - Planning Commission update: Al - The public hearing for the new Town Plan is next Monday.

Review Treasurer's Financial Statements/Journal Entries

- Reminder November 21 meeting draft budget review with Treasurer -

Roads

- Update culvert inventory - Steve and Delsie plan to take a walk to check culverts and update the database. The updates could reduce the number of risk erosion "hotspots" indicated on the State mapping system.
- 2017 paving/project plan - BlakTop will have an estimate for us on several needed Blood Brook projects so we can determine which project should be undertaken next summer.

Public Safety/Ordinance Enforcement

- Proposal Upper Valley Humane Society - The agreement was briefly reviewed. Similar to Central Vermont Humane Society, there is no up-front cost to the Town; but is a "pay as you go" if animals are sheltered. Action was deferred until we receive the contract in mid-November.
- Community policing options - Deferred for budget discussions.

Old Business

- Follow-up re: illegal dumping on Rt. 244 - Bev - The letter was not accepted and is coming back; follow-up through the Sheriff's office will take place after it returns.

New Business

- Community Building sewer back-up remediation, repair, and insurance claim - Serve-Pro is currently cleaning up; options for repair for both the system and the building were discussed. Delsie has been in touch with PACIF, our municipal insurer, which should cover much of it; there is a \$1,000 deductible.
- Consideration of request to bid on Town Report production - A company in Lebanon wants to bid for printing the Town Report; it was decided to get a quote from them to compare to what we're currently paying.
- Replacement of technology services provider – proposal/more in depth search - Our technology services provider has moved out of the area, so we need to find a new one. Someone approached the Town Clerk about it; she is finding out who Thetford and Fairlee use particularly in light of the need for understanding NEMRC system.
- Community Building snow shoveling contract - Leon Adams is no longer able to do the snow shoveling around the Community Building. Hoyt remarked that Leon was always extremely reliable and we will miss having him to do the job. The Selectboard expressed its thanks for his many years of service. Possible replacements were discussed, as well as the requirements of the job.
- Trash/Recycling agreement - Steve met informally with a representative from Quintown; as of now, no increases are expected. Service has been good with them.
- Approve/process overweight truck permits - Bev - none

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

Review Correspondence - Appropriations requests have started coming in; there are a couple of new organizations that have been notified what the procedures are.

Upcoming Events

- reminder schedule ARC for completion of thermostat installation

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.