

Minutes of August 22, 2016 Regular Select Board Meeting.

Present: Board members Carl Russell, Lisa Hill, Chris Jarvis, Vanessa Brown and Moe Brigham. Others present: Office Assistant Kelly Hill, Geneva Gaiko, Lisa Campbell for the "Herald of Randolph," Jose Lazo, Mike Hildenbrand, and Brownson Spencer.

Russell called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Public Comment or Inquiry: None.

Appointments: Michael Hildenbrand of Dubois & King Inc. RE: FEMA Buyout Properties. After an introduction by Hildenbrand the Board expressed how they had reviewed drawings and the work put into sites. Hill spoke of Spring Hollow being far out of town and had concerns with maintenance of the site and the site not being visible. Hill also questioned what the expense would be for maintaining sites. Russell also had concerns regarding maintenance of each site and the amenities such as picnic tables and portable toilets at each site. Hildenbrand explained the town will be responsible for maintenance of the sites but that the town can chose what features are at each location. Hildenbrand also explained that the engineering and construction is covered by the CDBG Grant and the grant money has a time frame for it to be used, starting fall. Hildenbrand is looking to get approval so projects can go out to bid. Russell expressed the concern of long term maintenance of the Gilead site. Hildenbrand did explain that the features from this site had been removed and that it is simply a natural area. Russell requested that erosion control be at the Gilead site being that there will be no portable toilets or picnic tables. Russell mentioned that he felt Marsh Meadow was a better spot for such amenities such as picnic tables being that it is closer to town. Brown made suggestion of a composting toilet at sites. Hill made point that a permanent structure could not be on site and that it would need to be out of flood zone. Jarvis expressed concern of Marsh Meadow being used for nuisance activities etc. Hill made suggestion that there not be amenities at Spring Hollow like Gilead. Hildenbrand did make suggestions for low growth plantings that require low maintenance including erosion control and conservation plantings. Russell stated the importance of conservation and parking at site. Overall Board feels the project should move forward and will discuss figures with Town Manager on budget for the maintenance of these locations. Board would like figures from Arlund on what budget for maintenance would be at sites for the September 12th meeting. Brigham motioned to approve, Hill seconded. Approved by Board.

Reports, Motions, and Ordinances:

1. Coin Drop Request from Bethel Fire Department for Saturday September 3, 2016, 8 to 1 pm next to the White Church. Hill motioned to approve the coin drop request from the Bethel Fire Department, Brigham seconded, all were in favor.

2. Board of Water & Sewage Disposal Commissioners:

a. Comprehensive Leak Detection Survey Report. The Board discussed the report and noted that all issues had been addressed and fixed. Four leaks had been detected and repaired. Russell mentioned that water line shut off locations are listed and would like to discuss/follow up with Town Manager Keith Arlund regarding locations and access to shut offs. Hill addressed an action list item regarding new hydrants and her concern that they are still sitting behind the Town Garage. Board will check in to see what is happening with extra and spare hydrants.

b. Review of Water and Sewer Rates for 2017. Board discussed rates for 2017 and the increase. Hill expressed wanting a notice mailed to payers that explains increased rates for 2017. Board agreed that a preliminary mailing should go out prior to utility bills with notice of increased rates. Hill motioned to approve water and sewer rates with agreement of preliminary notice to users, Brigham seconded, all were in favor.

c. Water system allocation Request for 88 North Road. Brownson Spencer, project manager for property, stated that permits and other approval from the State and other agencies is in process and with that the Board agreed to allocation. Spencer requested approval in writing. Hill motioned to approve allocation, Brigham seconded, all were in favor.

3. Discussion of Town Manager's Employment Evaluation. Board discussed additions to the evaluation: (1) Works with staff to promote good customer service in daily interaction with residents, public; (2) Maintains effective relations with community and business owners. Jarvis mentioned that 12 months is to long time period for review. Suggested a beginning of year goal setting possibly a month or two prior to town meeting, A mid-year check in four months following town meeting and end of the year evaluation. Russell will make suggested changes and email to Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager.

4. Town Manager's Report:

a. Town Hall: Jarvis mentioned that Arlund had gotten estimates for the paint job on the town hall steeple and had gone to look at work to be done. Jarvis did note that estimates were high.

b. FEMA Alternate project update: Projects are moving along and an extension was filed by Sherman for the grant.

c. Constable's Report: Jarvis noted the various tickets in report and speeds. Noted the new pavement on Route 12 and has seen increased speed by drivers. Is concerned of safety for children with school starting and would like to see a cross walk from Valley Motors over to the athletic fields. Hill also mentioned concern with no crosswalk and with school starting and sports it would be good to look into having a crosswalk.

Minutes and Communications

1. The August 8, 2016 Selectboard Minutes were approved.

Committee Minutes:

1. Brigham discussed Solid Waste meeting. Brigham mentioned a lot of accusations were going back and forth and that he would like the Solid Waste Board to have a meeting with both Bethel and South Royalton Selectboards. Brigham feels it will help sort out issues and questions. Russell suggested at next solid waste meeting that an October date be set for Bethel Board and Royalton Board to meet and discuss concerns. Solid Waste Management Board Chair Kristen Judkins will be coming on August 29th to "shadow" Abbie Sherman.

Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board:

1. Brown would like to attend VLCT accounting workshop in September, Jarvis may attend as well.

2. Hill mentioned the "Prepare-a-thon" on September 20th and would like to see various boards and departments there. Noted with Irene Anniversary coming up it would be good for all to attend.

3. Hill also made note that she would like the Fire Department and Selectboard to meet at some point to keep communication open. Russell mentioned he would contact Fire Chief David Aldrighetti.

4. Brown advised that White River Resilience Group will be meeting on August 28th for anyone that would like to attend.

5. Russell mentioned that VLCT is looking for voting delegates at Town Fair.

6. Russell mentioned he got a lot of good feedback regarding life guards and staff.

7. Jose Lazo from Bethel Energy Committee would like to appoint Kristen Lafromboise, John Fago, and Tim Brennan to the Energy Committee. Hill Motioned to approve, Jarvis seconded. Russell suggested to Lazo that the committee attend the next Board meeting and give presentation on what committee is doing.

Brigham motioned for the meeting to adjourn at 7:24 pm, Hill seconded, all were in favor.

Carl Russell

Lisa Hill

Vanessa Brown

Chris Jarvis

Moe Brigham