

Minutes of February 22, 2016 Regular Select Board Meeting.

Present: Board Members Bill Hall, Carl Russell and Lisa Hill. Others present: Town Manager Keith O. Arlund, Geneva Gaiko, Bethel Fire Chief David Aldrighetti, Bethel Fire Captain Paul Feeney, Mary Floyd, Betty Ann Scammell, Eric Benson, Jennifer Schomp, and Cecil Washburn.

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment or Inquiry:

1. Betty Ann Scammell asked for an update on the Cherry Hill Cemetery water/drainage issues identified in the upper portion of the cemetery. Arlund reported that the situation continues to be monitored. He has no permanent solution for the problem but will work to determine one. Russell noted that the area is impacted by rain and sub-surface waters and should be included in a capital improvement plan together with other town infrastructure needs. Hill stated that there are a short term and long term need for this section of the cemetery that should be addressed. Cecil Washburn (who joined the meeting later) suggested that lots in this section should never have been sold given the past water problems in the lower level. Hill recommended that any proposed action be taken before other lots in this section are actually used by owners. Arlund will seek assistance from hydrological specialists to develop a permanent solution.
2. Eric Benson requested that the Town Meeting Committee vacancies be advertised as the Conservation Commission was recently advertised or included in any future ads.

Appointments:

1. Eric Benson re. Moderator's Duty at Annual Town Meeting; Review of Warning. Benson noted the change in Article 3 to hear the report of Town Officers that previously included the annual audit. This is a general category to accept the various reports printed in the Town Report from the Select Board and other departments. The annual audit prepared by town's contracted firm will be made available when complete by posting on the website or copies made by request to the town office. Benson asked about Article 18 for the repainting of the wrought iron fence recently damaged in a vehicle accident. It was the consensus of the Board to present the question with the understanding that coverage will be sought from the operator's insurance through the VLCT. If approved the funds will only be spent if the insurance coverage is not sufficient.
2. Chief David Aldrighetti re. Bethel Fire Department's Homeland Security Special Operations Grant Application. Chief Aldrighetti provided a brief history of the Swift Water equipment acquisition and training. He noted that all equipment has been funded by grants and that no additional taxpayer funding has been required. The fire departments in the towns of Bethel, Barnard, and South Royalton participate together similar to other mutual aid practices. There is a need for a trailer that can carry all needed equipment to the scene of an incident. He noted that the State is developing a new urban rescue effort that will include local swift water teams that are fully certified. If the Bethel unit is on the State list it will be eligible for funding in the event of callout. As with previous grants, there is no need for taxpayer funding for this grant application. The Board commended the Department for all of its work including this special operations team. It was the consensus to submit this application.
3. Jennifer Schomp of the Bethel Conservation Commission re. Draft VYCC Work Proposal Request for 2016. Schomp presented the proposal for VYCC work in conjunction with AmeriCorps to begin work on a trail in the Town-owned Branliere Forest. Conceptual and initial work on this project began in 2011. This project will be completed in 3 phases with the work on Phase 1 to be completed in this request. This phase will include brush clearing, removal of invasive plants, water bars and other erosion control work as necessary. There is a \$4,500.00 match required for this project. It was noted that recent VYCC work has been matched from other sources. The Board supports the project and the Town Manager was asked to determine what funds are available in the current and proposed budget to provide the match. Commission members will also research other potential funding sources. The proposal will be submitted at the end of March 2016.

Reports, Motions and Ordinances:

1. Royalton State Police Barracks Reinstatement of Community Advisory Panel. The Town received notification that Barracks Commander, LT Jenkins, was going to restart the Community Advisory Board. (The Town participated in the past.) Lisa Hill volunteered

to represent the Board and the Town. She feels that it is important for a local resident to participate on this panel. This panel is also consistent with her desire to work with surrounding communities on opiate and other important issues. Arlund will notify the State Police contact person.

2. Filing of Rule 118-4 re. Town Highway Weight Limits. Arlund referred the Board to the letter from the Secretary of Transportation dated February 1, 2016 that allows the formal posting of weight limits when it necessary to protect their integrity. Load limits may be posted from November 15<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board accepted the filing and copies will be posted in the usual places.
3. Town Manager's Report. Status update of Action Items.
  - a. The two current members of the Solid Waste Alliance Boar, Jenn Bartleman and Kristen Judkins, agreed to serve another term. Lisa Hill volunteered to be the Bethel Select Board representative to this committee. The next meeting of this board is scheduled for March 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM in Bethel Town Offices.
  - b. Arlund provided the Board with the auditor's Representation Letter for signature by Chairman Hall. Other signatories were Keith Arlund, Abbie Sherman and Jean Burnham.
  - c. The Vermont Alert representative will be here Friday, February 26, 2016 to assist with the internal set-up of the system here in the town offices.
  - d. Arlund reported that Chief Wastewater Operator, Tim Mills, prepared and filed the new sludge management plan to replace the prior land application program. The plan was approved. Arlund commended Mills for his professional and efficient work on the new plan.
  - e. Arlund reported that the forestry consultant on the logging of the Wood property, with the approved skid trail through the recreation center property, was unable to complete the logging effort this winter season and requested an extension until next winter. The request was forwarded to the State for review and comment.
  - f. Arlund presented liquor licenses from the Town Clerk for approval. All were approved, the Chairman not participating.
  - g. Arlund noted that he had received the proposed job descriptions from the Recreation Committee. Assistant Manager Abbie Sherman has been working with the committee as well. The descriptions will be reviewed internally and work with the committee will continue.

#### Minutes and Communications:

1. Select Board minutes of February 6, 2016. The minutes were approved on motion of Hill, second by Russell and unanimously carried.
2. Committee Minutes. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Conservation Commission for February 9, 2016 and the Bethel Recreation Committee for February 10, 2016.

#### Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board:

1. Hill reported that she had received comments about the village sidewalks during the last week (Tuesday-Wednesday). It was noted that the weather and changing temperatures were difficult during this period. She inquired as to the timing and continuity of sidewalk maintenance during such freezing and thawing events. There was also discussion of the number of trips back to the highway garage to re-fill the sanding/salting hopper. Arlund will research and discuss improved procedures with Highway Foreman and Operator.
2. Russell suggested that a policy be considered for sidewalk maintenance operations. He noted that this event was particularly difficult. He suggested that Arlund communicate directly with property and business owners to ascertain their views on this issue and better ways to be more effective. Arlund noted that the first priority is to open and maintain the highway network. Often this work conflicts with the effort to clear and maintain the sidewalks in the close confines of the village core.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:05 PM by Russell, seconded by Hill and unanimously carried.

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Bill Hall

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Carl Russell

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Lisa Hill