

Minutes of August 24, 2015 Selectboard Meeting

Present: Board members Bill Hall, Carl Russell and Lisa Hill. Others present: Town Manager Keith Arlund, Assistant Town Manager Abbie Sherman, Geneva Gaiko, Eleanor Griffin, Rick Benson, Louise Ferris-Burt, Jim Gray, Lisa Warhol, Steve Neron, Adam Sappern, Margo Sappern.

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

Public Comment or Inquiry: Rick Benson, on behalf of the Town Meeting Committee, supplied the Board with an agenda for the September 3 Community Potluck and Discussion about Town and School Budgets. Arlund also provided Benson with a schedule for the budgeting process and Annual Town Report. Hall relayed his concerns regarding the Town Meeting Committee going beyond their original expectations. He advised that the Town Report is the Selectboard's responsibility. Hall also reviewed Middlesex's Town Report, since it is often referred to, but he did not find anything in it he would like to add to Bethel's Report. The Board would, however, consider any suggestions the Committee has.

Reports, Motions, and Ordinances:

1. Review of Request from the Board of Listers re. BCA Decision on DesLaurier & Aldrighetti. Hall advised that the BCA is charged with review of appeals of property evaluations made by the Board of Listers. He is not inclined to request an appeal on behalf of the Board of Listers. Russell made a motion that the Selectboard grant the Board of Lister's request for an appeal. There was not a second. The motion failed. Hill further described the BCA process. She believed there was no basis for the appeal and did not feel the Selectboard should be undermining the process set in place by Vermont Statute.

The Board of Listers had also provided the Selectboard with an Errors and Omissions request for change in ownership on two properties. There was no value change. Motion to approve the request was made by Carl Russell, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried.

2. Coin Drop Requests. The Town received requests for two coin drops: (1) on Saturday, September 5 by the Bethel Fire Department, and (2) on Saturday, September 26 by the Special Olympics. The Board approved both requests.
3. Review of Recreation Committee Mission Statement. The Recreation Committee approved the Mission Statement at their meeting of August 12. Russell wondered if the mission statement should be expanded to beyond the pool. Ele Griffin confirmed that the mission statement clarified the Recreation Committee's understanding of their purpose. Motion to approve the Recreation Committee Mission Statement was made by Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.
4. Town Manager's Report:
 - a. Alternate Projects. The Request for Proposals for the Pool House Improvements project has been released, with several contractors attending the pre-bid meeting held on August 21. Arlund is still waiting to hear from DuBois & King regarding the other alternate project.
 - b. Status Update of Action Items.
 - i. Arlund has received communication from Craig Whipple of the Land & Water Conservation Fund that the review of the logging access road through the Recreation Center is moving along. Historic Preservation is currently reviewing.
 - ii. Arlund and Robert Hyde will be attending a Local Roads Class on August 25.
 - iii. The Board discussed the schedule for budget discussions and recommended changes. A revised schedule will be provided to Rick Benson and posted on the Town website.
 - iv. Russell reviewed the water issues at Cherry Hill and believes the cemetery should not have been built there as the water is from more than just stormwater runoff from the road and the White's drive.
 - v. Russell questioned Arlund regarding any provisions for impact on Town roads due to the Route 12 reconstruction. Arlund will look into this.

Committee Minutes: The Board reviewed the following: (1) Conservation Commission minutes of August 11, 2015; (2) Recreation Committee minutes of August 12, 2015; and (3) Town Meeting Committee minutes of August 17, 2015.

Other Communications: The Board reviewed the August 12 White River water quality results from the White River Partnership.

Other Business:

1. Adam and Margo Sappern had provided the Board with a list of suggestions/questions prior to the meeting.
2. Steve Neron suggested additional patrolling on North Main Street for speeders. Arlund is researching flashing speed limit signage as was suggested at Town Meeting. Russell advised that the Bethel Constable is not outfitted for backup should a traffic stop require additional assistance.

At 6:50 PM, Lisa Hill made the motion to adjourn the meeting to September 3, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Bethel Town Hall, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.

Bill Hall

Carl Russell

Lisa Hill