

Minutes of October 26, 2015 Regular Selectboard Meeting.

Present: Board members Bill Hall, Carl Russell and Lisa Hill. Others present: Town Manager Keith Arlund, Assistant Town Manager Abbie Sherman, David Sambor, Geneva Gaiko, and Carroll Ketchum.

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

Public Comment or Inquiry: David Sambor was present representing the Bethel Revitalization Initiative. The BRI would like continued use of the Town Hall to hold meetings regarding Bethel University. The Board agreed this would be allowed. Sambor also inquired regarding the requirements needing to be met to hang a banner on Main Street advertising Bethel University. Arlund advised that it is class 1 Town highway so no State approval would be needed. To meet Zoning requirements, the banner could only be in place temporarily and should be 1'x12' to be exempt from the sign regulations. Sambor would need to seek Board approval for the actual wording of the sign and building owner approval to hang the sign. Carroll Ketchum announced that he has the temporary apparatus and cables that had been used to hang banners in years past between the Sandwich Shop building and Mascoma Savings Bank. Sambor also advised the Board that there are several street lights out in the village.

Reports, Motions, and Ordinances:

1. Review and Discussion of Request from the Revolving Loan Committee. The Board had been provided minutes from the last meeting. Carroll Ketchum was present on behalf of the Committee to request a deviation from the Community Revolving Loan Fund standards to allow for a \$25,000 loan to Tozier's Restaurant. Ketchum advised that the fund had not seen a lot of use in recent years and was not earning much interest. Historically, the funds had been used to provide interest-free loans or grants to low and moderate income people for replacement of failed sewer systems. Hall advised he was reluctant to release the bulk of the fund to one borrower and questioned whether most people knew the loans existed. Hall also felt the funds could potentially be used for homeowner energy improvement projects. Russell echoed Hall's concerns regarding the amount and setting a precedence for future borrowers, but recognized the necessity of the project. Ketchum advised that the Committee recommends the full request of \$65,000 be approved, regardless of how the approval is split between the two Revolving Loan Funds. Carl Russell made the motion to approve the Revolving Loan Committee's recommendation for a \$65,000 loan to Tozier's Restaurant to be split as follows: \$5,000 from the Community Revolving Loan Fund and \$60,000 from the Economic Revolving Loan Fund; seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried. Hill requested the guidelines be reviewed at a future Board meeting to update the standards to reflect current needs.
2. Appointment of Green Up Day Coordinator. Lisa Hill had assisted with this last year and advised she would be willing to take on this role for 2016. Motion by Carl Russell to appoint Lisa Hill as Green Up Coordinator, seconded by Bill Hall, and thus carried.
3. Discussion of Dedication of Annual Report. Hill distributed to the Board her recommendation for this year's dedication. Russell agreed they were worthy candidates, but would like to move toward making the dedication to someone who is still living. The item was tabled until the November 9th meeting.
4. Town Manager's Report:
 - a. Alternate Projects. The pool house has been demolished. A change order is in the works for revisions to the footings to provide for potentially unsuitable soils. The Town has the preliminary final plans for the Route 12 projects.
 - b. CDBG Buy-Out Properties. A kickoff meeting was held recently to move forward with the construction grant project. Additionally, FEMA will be visiting two sites this week as part of the closeout of the acquisition grant.
 - c. Town Highway Paving. All water and sewer coverings have been revealed. Reclaiming of the pavement is scheduled to start Wednesday. There is a cross culvert that will be replaced prior to paving.
 - d. Status Update of Action Items.
 - i. The Town is in receipt of the approval letter for the logging access road at the Recreation Center.
 - ii. Arlund is working on scheduling the joint meeting with Selectboard from area towns re. opiates.
 - iii. The ad for a new Constable will be published in this week's edition of the Herald.
 - iv. The speed sign had been set up.

- v. Arlund has reviewed the matrix from the RSMS as it may related to the evaluation of class 4 roads. Russel has a community member who is interested in serving on the Ancient Roads Committee.
- vi. An ad regarding the Energy Committee will appear in this week's Herald.
- vii. Joe Duncan of Aldrich & Elliot continues to work on water and sewer rates.
- viii. Russell inquired about the wastewater department's biosolids land application. Arlund advised he and Tim Mills are working with Jeff Townsend on this. The current program is good until March 2016.

Minutes and Communications:

1. Selectboard Minutes of October 5, 2015. Motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes of October 5, 2015 made by Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.
2. Committee Minutes. The Board acknowledged the following: (1) June 16, 2015 and October 6 and 20, 2015 minutes of the Development Review Board; (2) September 24, 2015 minutes of the Recreation Committee; (3) September 28, 2015 minutes of the Town Meeting Committee; (4) October 13, 2015 minutes of the Conservation Commission; (5) October 14, 2015 minutes of the Bethel/Royalton Solid Waste Management Board.
3. Other Communications. There were no other communications.

Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board.

Arlund advised the Board that the Town is in receipt of a draft Hazard Mitigation Plan from Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission which suggested a review deadline of November 9. There will need to be a final review by the Emergency Planning Committee. A review by the Selectboard will be conducted at the November 23 meeting. Arlund will advise TRORC of the need to change the deadline.

At 6:50 PM, Carl Russell made the motion to enter executive session to discuss potential litigation, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried. Arlund was the only person remaining with the Board. No minutes were kept. The Board resumed open meeting at 7:06 PM.

At 7:07 PM, Carl Russell made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried.

Bill Hall

Carl Russell

Lisa Hill