

Minutes of November 23, 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, Lucien Hinkle, Eric Benson, Victoria Weber, Davis Dimock, Ele Griffin, Julie Nelson, Tom Burgos, Laura Perez, and John Fago.

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

Public Comment: There were no comments.

Appointments:

1. Tom Burgos Representing Stagecoach Transportation re. Appropriation Request and Provision of Services. Tom Burgos and Laura Perez were present as representatives from Stagecoach. Burgos requested the appointment to update the Board on the progress of Stagecoach and provide information on their FY' 17 funding request. Perez advised that Stagecoach presently receives funding as follows: 80% State and federal; 20% local. It is Stagecoach's goal to have 1% of the total budget come from towns; presently it is less than 0.5%. Stagecoach is proposing making the increases to towns incrementally, utilizing census data. Russell advised the request will be passed on to the Human Services Advisory Committee for their review. Perez informed the Board that Randolph has chosen to include the Stagecoach request in the town budget. She believes access to transportation is critical to the health of Bethel.
2. Members of the Town Meeting Committee re. Recommendations for the Town Report. Rick Benson, Victoria Weber, and Davis Dimock were present on behalf of the Committee. Benson recognized the hard work that goes into pulling together the Town Report and the Committee is looking for ways to improve the document. A list of proposed additions to the Town Report were presented to the Selectboard by Davis Dimock. Hall advised that many of the items on the list are already being done. He will follow up with Abbie Sherman regarding the other items on the list.
3. Members of the Recreation Committee re. Recommendations for the FY' 17 Recreation Department Budget. Ele Griffin was present on behalf of the Committee and provided the Board with a copy of the draft FY' 17 budget. The Committee has three recommendations: (a) increase the appropriation to the Recreation Facility Improvement Fund to \$30,000 from \$15,000 to speed up the master plan; (b) a budget of \$2,000 under "American Red Cross" for training; (c) increase wages to match the actual numbers for FY' 15. Hall advised Griffin the Board would take the suggestions under advisement. Hall also suggested that, for the Recreation Facility Improvement Fund, the Board may opt to leave \$15,000 in the budget and provide an Article on the Warning for Town Meeting for the additional \$15,000.

Reports, Motions, and Ordinances:

1. Update re. Bem-Ti-Vi, Solar LLC 500 kW Group Net Metering Project on Christian Hill Road. The Board received a letter from John Fago advising that he was not going forward with the 500kW project. Fago was present and announced he was planning for a 150kW project instead, which requires less stringent reviews for approval by the Public Service Board. Fago provided the Board with a copy of the new proposed layout of the project. The Board will further review when they receive an official notice from Vermont Environmental Research Associates, Inc.
2. Review of Draft Selectboard Report. Russell will edit and provide an updated copy to Sherman.
3. Inspection Report of Bridge #33 on Lilliesville Brook Road (TH#31). The Board received an inspection report from the State of Vermont recommending repairs. Arlund has followed up with State Bridge Inspector Pam Thurber and Evan Detrick of DuBois & King, Inc. Arlund will advise the Board after a further review is made.
4. Discussion re. Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Arlund advised the document would be forwarded to FEMA as a preliminary draft following any comments from the Board. Once approved by FEMA, the document would need to be formally approved by the Board. Russell pointed out the importance of implementation of the document's recommendations. The Board approved the plan being passed on to FEMA.
5. Renewal of Note with Mascoma Savings Bank for Tropical Storm Irene Damages. Motion by Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried to renew the referenced note.

6. Bethel Human Services Advisory Committee Update and Potential Appointment. The Board accepted with regret a letter of resignation from Carol De Freitas. Motion by Carl Russell, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried to appoint Carroll Ketchum to the Committee as recommended by Carol De Freitas.
7. Potential Appointments to Ancient Roads Committee. Timothy Mills, Derrick Wright, Maurice Brigham, and Thatcher Hinman are all interested in being on the Committee. Rick Benson asked the Board what the Committee would be doing. Hall advised they will look at each class 4 road, utilizing an established set of criteria. Benson advised he may also be interested in being on the Committee.
8. Town Manager's Report:
 - a. Property Tax Sale Update. The tax sale is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 1 p.m. at the Bethel Town Offices. Title work has been completed on the approximately 15 properties.
 - b. Alternate Project: Recreation Center Improvements. The contractor is closing up the site for winter. It is anticipated work will resume in April 2016. Arlund has forwarded a copy of the preliminary final plans for the Route 12 portion of the Alternate Projects to Tom Morse, Barnard Selectboard.
 - c. Wastewater Department's Biosolids Land Application Certification. Wastewater Operator Tim Mills received accolades from the State of Vermont for his management of the biosolids land application. Mills is negotiating alternatives for future disposal of biosolids.
 - d. Review of 2015 Employee Bonuses. This was approved by the Board.
 - e. Status Update of Action Items.
 - i. Arlund continues to work on alternatives for water and sewer charges.

Minutes and Communications:

1. Selectboard Minutes of November 9, 2015. Minutes were approved pending editing of the date by motion of Carl Russell, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried.
2. Committee Minutes. The Board acknowledge receipt of the October 21, 2015 minutes from the Bethel Planning Commission.
3. Other Communications. The Board acknowledge the following communications: (a) a thank you card from the Town of Randolph and the Randolph Village Fire Department for the provision of traffic control during their station's fire; (b) a memo from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for 2016-17 Dues.

Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board: Russell would like to keep the Town Garage at the forefront for capital improvements. He would also like some part of future meetings dedicated to discussion of the capital plan.

At 7:40 PM, Carl Russell made the motion to enter executive session to discuss a potential ligation issue, 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 7:46 PM.

At 7:48 PM, Lisa Hill made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.

Bill Hall

Carl Russell

Lisa Hill