

Minutes of January 11, 2016 Regular Select Board Meeting.

Present: Board Members Bill Hall, Carl Russell and Lisa Hill. Others present: Town Manager Keith Arlund, Assistant Town Manager Abbie Sherman, Jose Lazo, Ele Griffin, and Lucien Hinkle.

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

Public Comment: Ele Griffin was present on behalf of the Recreation Committee. The committee has been working on progressing with the master plan to include application to various grants. Griffin requested a status update on the Board's thoughts regarding the master plan. Hall advised that the Board is interested in seeing the master plan move forward. The Board has included an appropriation to the Rec. Facility Fund, but grants will be needed to match those funds. Russell advised the Board would need a better understanding of the funding scheme and next series of projects at the Recreation Center.

Reports, Motions, and Ordinances:

1. Approval of 2016 Certificate of Highway Mileage. No changes were made from last year's certificate. Motion to approve the 2016 Certificate of Highway Mileage was made by Carl Russell, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried.
2. Review of Town Road & Bridge Standards and Completion of Certification of Compliance. The Board is required to recertify these standards on an annual basis. Motion to approve the Town Road & Bridge Standards and Certificate of Compliance was made by Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.
3. Draft Bethel Highway Inventory and Capital Plan. Arlund presented the Board with a draft 5-year maintenance and 15-year capital plan consisting paved town highways. Work is still being completed on the inventory of gravel roads. Arlund advised that the engineer, Everett Hammond will be attending the first meeting in February to further discuss this plan with the Board. The Board was pleased to have concrete information to present to the voters.
4. Matters Associated with Town Meeting and the Annual Report:
 - a. Human Services Advisory Committee Recommendations. The Board appreciated the rationality behind the recommended appropriations. Motion to approve the Human Services Advisory Committee recommendations as submitted was made by Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.
 - b. General Fund, Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Budgets. Arlund ran through the various changes made to the budgets. Hall requested further reducing the amount allotted for Auditing Services. Russell relayed concerns that not enough was attributed to Highway Rehabilitation. The Board decided to leave \$40,000 in the budget and ask the voters for an additional \$110,000. Jose Lazo stated it may be helpful to know what the maximum capacity is for Bethel taxpayers. Comment regarding the budget was also provided by Lucien Hinkle. There were no comments on the minor changes to the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste budgets.
 - c. Warning for Town Meeting. Minor edits were provided to Abbie Sherman.
 - d. Annual Report Dedication. The Board was pleased with the draft of the dedication page.
5. Annual Summary of Cowdrey Fund for Submittal to Probate Court. Motion to approve was made by Carl Russell, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried.
6. Town Manager's Report:
 - a. Budget Status Report: General Fund, Wastewater, Water, Solid Waste. Arlund provided these reports to the Board and advised that the budget is on target.
 - b. Status Update of Action Items.
 - i. Approximately \$200,000 has been collected in delinquent taxes.
 - ii. Arlund provided the Board with a revised copy of the contract with Dimmick Wastewater Services for sludge disposal. Motion to approve was made by Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.

Minutes and Communications:

1. Selectboard Minutes of December 28, 2015. Motion by Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried to approve the December 28, 2015 Selectboard minutes.
2. Committee Minutes. The Board acknowledged receipt of: (1) December 9, 2015 Recreation Committee minutes; (2) December 21, 2015 Town Meeting Committee minutes.
3. Other Communications. The Board acknowledged receipt of: (1) a response letter dated December 31, 2015 from Vermont Environmental Research Associates (VERA); (2) a letter dated December 23, 2015 from Julie Nelson & Dave Eddy. Regarding the letter from

VERA, Russell felt the letter was dismissive of the Board's concerns about the solar power panels.

Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board:

1. Hill requested an update on savings the Town might be receiving as part of the Novus Solar power project. Arlund advised that it is too early to tell what the savings will be. Currently the Town has a credit on many of their electricity invoices, but it is expected that will be eliminated in the coming months.

Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters. Before entering Executive Session, Hall requested that it be divided into two meetings. At 7:30 PM, Lisa Hill made the motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:56 PM and motion to adjourn was made by Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.

Bill Hall

Carl Russell

Lisa Hill