

Minutes
West Rutland Special Selectman Meeting
Monday, November 25th, 2019

Present: John Harvey, Bill Kulig, Chet Brown, Jayne Pratt, Nick Notte, Joe Skaza, Michael Skaza, Tom Lacz and Lori Lyons.

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette and Mike Moser

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by John with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Motion by Nick seconded by Bill to approve the agenda with amendment adding Action Item #e Consider Otter Creek Engineering Dewey Avenue slide proposal and #f Underwater Solutions proposal. Motion approved.

Minutes Approval: Motion by Chet seconded by Jayne with the correction on page 3 under board member concerns. Rutland City is installing a new food digester not Casella.

Action Items:

- a. Appoint Fire Department Officers** – The membership held their election of officers and submitted the results for appointment to the Selectboard: Michael Skaza as Chief, Thomas Lacz as Assistant Chief both for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2020. Motion made by Nick seconded by Bill to appoint the officers as submitted by the fire department membership. Motion approved unanimously. The Selectboard congratulated and thanked Joe Skaza for his 47 years of service with 28 serving as chief. Chair John Harvey informed Joe that the Town would like to feature him on the cover of this year's Town Report.
- b. Listers guidance on Appeals** – John Harvey recused himself from this portion of the meeting. The listers have four tax appeals files to PVR and to Superior Cour. The lister are requesting approval to hire Vision to assist them with the PVR appeals for Crestmark and Vermont Earth. Chet made a motion to proceed with hiring Vision to conduct the appeals for Crestmark and Vermont Earth. Motion seconded by Bill. Motion approved. The listers also requested hiring Mr. Sansoucy our appraiser and Eric Maher as attorney for the appeals by VT Transco. Chet made a motion to authorize the hiring of Sansoucy and Eric Mahar to assist the listers with the two VT Transco tax appeals. Seconded by Bill. Motion approved. Lisa will request a status update as we proceed.
- c. Review Bids for Sidewalk Project** – We received two bids: Belden at \$890,425 and Casella at \$1,046,624.90. The lowest bid is 39% above the engineer's estimate. We are waiting for a response from VTrans on our next steps. Mary Ann suggested we table a decision until next meeting.
- d. Review RFQ submissions for Resident Engineer for Sidewalk Project** – we received four bids: GPI, Otter Creek, VIS and Staff Sterling. The steering committee reviewed the proposals and graded them according to the criteria. GPI was chosen and we asked them

for a cost proposal. We will address this at the next meeting depending on the status of the construction bid.

- e. **Otter Creek Dewey Avenue Slide Proposal** – We chose Otter Creek after the RFQ was issued to design the Dewey Avenue slide repair. Otter Creek’s proposal is an hourly basis not to exceed \$43,800 and includes services from a geotechnical engineer. Motion made by Chet seconded by Jayne to hire Otter Creek not to exceed \$43,800 for the Dewey Avenue roadway stabilization project to be funded by FEMA. Motion approved.
- f. **Underwater Solutions Proposal** - We are required to clean our water storage tanks every 5 years. The proposal is to clean and inspect the Clark Hill 190,000 gallon and Pleasant Heights 800,000 gallon storage tanks for \$5,480. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to sign the contract to hire Underwater Solutions to clean and inspect the Clark Hill and Pleasant Heights storage tanks for \$5,480. Motion approved.

Discussion Items:

- a. **Floodplain Maps:** FEMA will be updating their 2008 floodplain maps. The new digital update will allow for more exact measurements. If we have any concern areas it’s important for us to communicate them to Scott Olsen. The group identified in front of Westway Mall, Bailey and Jiffy Mart as problem areas. Also Napa, Girardi’s and SE Smith.
- b. **Opioid Lawsuit:** The Vermont Attorney General wants all cities and towns to participate in the Negotiation Class involving opioid related litigation. The Town of West Rutland has certainly seen its share of opioid related problems and deaths from this epidemic. Motion made by Nick seconded by Bill to participate in the opioid negotiation class litigation. Motion approved.
- c. **2020 Legislative Issues:** VLCT is watching the 3-acre stormwater rule which will have significant costs associated to it in a relatively short timeline. A number of businesses in West Rutland are affected including the Westway Mall. The other issue is S.54 related to establishing cannabis marketplace. They are suggesting a resolution asking the legislature to give municipalities the same local control they have with liquor licenses. It was agreed we will look to sign the resolution at the next meeting.
- d. **Town Manager’s Report:**
 - a. **Better Backroad Grants:** Mary Ann is writing a grant to secure the streambank at the recreation area and possibly clean the channel.
 - b. **Recreation Trail Grant:** We are working with the Audubon Society on phase 2 of the Marsh Trail. This will allow visitors access within the marsh instead of walking on the side of the road which is very dangerous. It’s a 20% match or \$10,000 which the Town will split with the Audubon. We will match with in-kind services.
 - c. **Review Budget Process:** Many financial requests are increasing this year: sheriff, health insurance, etc. Budget meetings are scheduled for Dec. 16, Jan. 13 and 27th.
 - d. **Gift from Bernie Rogers:** We were notified that the Town was named as beneficiary for a life insurance policy for Bernie Rogers. We received a very generous check for \$21,898.75. Discussion on what Bernie would want for the highway department and Town.

Board Member Concerns:

Chet: A number of cars are for sale at 839 Clarendon Ave. Do they need a permit?

Nick: Lots of truck traffic on Whipple Hollow travelling to OMYA.

John: The decking on the Whipple Hollow bridge is loose.

Bill: A group is looking at restoring the WWI monument in front of Town Hall. We should limit the number of signs in front of the memorial. Can we add a parking area at the soccer field? Would like to look at a 5-step plan to install a pavilion at the recreation area.

Approved Orders: The board approved the pay orders.

Executive Session: Chet made a motion at 7:45pm. to enter executive session for real estate. Seconded by Bill. Chet made a motion seconded by Nick to exit executive session at 7:58 pm. No action taken. Motion approved.

On behalf of the Selectboard, John Harvey offers his condolences to the family of Stephen Long. Steve served on the Board of Civil Authority for many years and most recently participated in the tax appeal hearings and inspections over the summer.

Adjournment: Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette