

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, September 14th, 2020
Via Zoom Meeting

Present: John Harvey, Chet Brown, Jayne Pratt and Bill Kulig

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Michael Skaza and Mike Moser

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by John with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Motion by Chet seconded by Jayne to approve the agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval: Chet made a motion to approve the minutes from August 10th and August 24th, 2020 meeting. Jayne seconded. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Mike Moser has noticed traffic is not stopping for pedestrians at the new crossing by Bailey's Motors. The painting is not completed yet but perhaps the sheriff can patrol. Adding a new sidewalk where the jughandle was removed.

Discussion Items:

- a) **Fire Department Update** – Chief Michael Skaza reported the fire department is doing well. The department was very quiet during the first few months of Covid but it has since picked up and the number of annual calls hit 70 today. They recruited two new volunteers and another two just completed training at the Vermont Fire Academy. Our volunteers are at capacity. Daytime coverage is good. Budget should be on target. The Town may need to budget dispatch services in the future but it will be a phased in approach. Received a grant for a dry hydrant for Whipple Hollow where there are concerns on water supply.
- b) **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** – The plan needs to be updated every 5 years which will give the Town another 5% match in Fema dollars. The plan was reviewed by all department heads and identifies problem areas of flooding, storm events and problems due to power outages. The draft plan will be available for comment for 30 days. Chet noted the ladder truck was missing from the fire department fleet. It was also questioned whether the school has a generator. Mary Ann will check.
- c) **Town Manager Report** – All departments are getting ready for winter, hauling material etc. Delinquencies are high in utilities with another bill going out last week. We will stay diligent on collections and spending.

Action Items:

- A. **VT Rural Fire Protection Program Grant** – Chief Skaza applied and received a grant for a dry hydrant for Whipple Hollow. The grant is based on Fabian's estimate of \$5,273

and requires a 25% match which can be in kind. Chet made a motion to have Mary Ann sign the grant agreement seconded by Jayne. Motion approved.

- B. Tri-Town bike path feasibility study** – Base on a recommendation from the Proctor prosperity plan the Rutland regional planning commission suggests submitting an application for a tri town bike path to include Pittsford, Proctor and West Rutland. The path could be an extension of our new bike lane and Business Route 4. The grant would be for \$30K and requires a 20% match. West Rutland would be the lead applicant. We need to submit a letter of support and pledge 1/3 of the matching funds. It was suggested to invite Rutland Town as it may run through Center Rutland to Route 3. Mary Ann also suggested it could connect to the new Mead Falls Park. Motion made by Chet seconded by Jayne to submit a letter of support and pledge 1/3 of the matching grant funds. Motion approved.

Selectboard Concerns:

Chet – traffic is still using two lanes heading east at the jughandle

Bill- The basketball hoops are broken at the rec. Need to remove the metal brackets from the utility pole. Bill wants to look at the pavilion and perhaps we can work on some of the site work this fall. A 20'x40' slab is \$4500. Mary Ann will pull the previous paperwork. We tabled the project because of the high cost of \$50K.

Adjournment: Chet made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm and Jayne seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette