

**Minutes**  
**West Rutland Selectboard Meeting**  
**Monday, January 11th, 2021**  
**Via Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** John Harvey, Nick Notte, Chet Brown and Jayne Pratt

**Others Present:** Mary Ann Goulette, Lisa Wright, Murph Higgins, Paul Kulig and Mike Moser

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:12pm by Nick 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 the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. Jayne seconded. Motion approved.

**Public Concerns:** None

**Executive Session:** John Harvey recused himself. Chet made a motion seconded by Jayne to enter executive session at 6:15pm for contract negotiations. Chet made a motion to exit executive session seconded by Jayne at 6:36pm. Chet made a motion to consolidate with the Town of Vernon on the Velco tax appeal. Lisa should negotiate payment structure and request a letter of engagement from Attorney Maher and Sansoucy. Seconded by Jayne. Motion approved.

**Discussion Items:** John Harvey joined the meeting.

- a) **Review CLA report** – Lisa explained how the CLA is calculated based on the last three years of sales. Our CLA of 105.64 is a good range and is positive for our tax rate. We are not over assessing since all of the categories show a 99% range except utilities. The utility category is based on inventory value vs the grand list rather than sale prices. A reappraisal is triggered when the COD is over 20 or the CLA is over 115 or under 85.
- b) **Budget 21/22** – Paul Kulig was present to give the library update. He thanked the Town for the appropriation of \$50K which has not changed for several years. It was a difficult year and they have been trying to operate curbside as much as possible. No increase in appropriation is required at this time. Mary Ann went through the general budget indicating flat or nearly flat budgets in most categories. Revenues are projected down 12% due to Covid. Small increase in health insurance due to adding a spouse to the plan. Discussion on the delay in the new truck. We are short \$37,000 in the truck savings account but rather than leasing we can borrow against next year's allocation of \$70,000. We received a letter last year from Rutland County Humane Society requesting funding as they have serviced the Town for many years. Motion made by Chet seconded by Jayne to add \$500 in the budget to the Rutland County Humane Society. The overall budget is up .8%

- c) **Selectboard Vacancy** – John Harvey called a moment of silence in honor of the sudden passing of Selectboard member Bill Kulig. Bill’s remaining term is 1 year. After discussion, it was decided to add the seat onto the ballot and have the voters decide.
- d) **Review Articles and Warning** – We have received all requests the same as last year. The Carving Studio will be removed as their property is now tax exempt. REDC is now combined with the Chamber and the new amount under CCEDR is \$1260 which is \$100 less.

**Action Items:**

- e) **Letter of Support – Better Places Grant** – This \$20K is available for projects within the village designation that create, activate, or improve a public space. Mary Ann suggested a pedestrian path next to the channel based on the feasibility study that was conducted in 2017. It would be similar to the one near the ski house at the recreation area. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to have John sign a letter of support for the Better Places Grant in constructing of a pedestrian path next to the channel.
- f) **20/21 Highway Mileage Certification** – No changes this year. Motion made by Nick seconded by Jayne to approve and sign the 2021 Certificate of Highway Mileage.

**Board Member Concerns:**

**Chet** – Two houses with garbage and debris that need attention, 63 Blanchard and 1516 Main Street. Mary Ann said any foreclosures are on hold because of Covid. When will we have some numbers for the wastewater plant upgrade? Mary Ann thinks by the end of January and we need to get on the funding list in February.

**Nick** – Would like to see a memorial on the website for Bill Kulig. Mary Ann said we will have something in the town report and the possibly of a plaque at the dog park by the Paws for Parks group.

**Adjournment:** Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Goulette