

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, July 12th, 2021
Via Zoom Meeting and In Person

Present: John Harvey, Chet Brown, Nick Notte and Jayne Pratt **Remote:** None

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Mike Moser and Paul Kulig

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by John with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Motion by Chet seconded by Nick as written. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by Jayne to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 14th, 2021. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Paul Kulig was present to discuss the 25 mph speed limit proposal on Pleasant Street. He stated it was previously discussed several years ago and it was agreed that it was too slow for that road and no one would adhere to it, especially extending out as far to the gravel portion of the road. Discussion on ending it sooner at the intersections of Durgy Hill or Pleasant Heights. No changes were made to the proposed traffic amendment.

Action:

- a) **Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recover Funding (CLFRF)** – Mary Ann explained we will be receiving two installments over two years totalling \$225,080 in Covid relief funding. The funds can be spent on specific items such as water, sewer and broadband. There will also be another round of funding possibly coming through at the county level.
 - a. Motion made by Chet that the Town of West Rutland will accept its allocation of CLFRF from the US Treasury, along with the award terms and conditions and assurances of compliance with the civil rights requirements that are requirements of accepting these funds. Motion seconded by Jayne. Motion approved unanimously.
 - b. Chet made the motion that we appoint the Selectboard Chair, currently John Harvey, to serve as the Town of West Rutland’s authorized representative as required by the CLFRF from the US Treasury, to sign the award terms and conditions and assurances of compliance with the civil rights requirements. Motion seconded by Nick. Motion approved unanimously.
 - c. Chet made the motion that we name Mary Ann Goulette as the contact person for the Town of West Rutland’s CLFRF award from US Treasury. Nick seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

- b) **Set Tax Rate** – Mary Ann presented a spreadsheet indicating the municipal rate of .7476. The State sets the education rate of 1.366 for homestead and 1.5259 for non-residential. The total tax rate for homestead is \$2.1142 down slightly from last year of 2.1156. Chet

made the motion to set the municipal tax rate of .7476 seconded by Nick. Motion approved.

- c) **Declaration of Inclusion** – This declaration reads “The Town of West Rutland condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or disability. As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all of its forms and commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community. The Town of West Rutland has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.” Motion made by Nick seconded by Chet to adopt the Declaration of Inclusion as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion Items:

- a) **RTFD Merger Discussion** – Mary Ann, Seth and Chet attended the fire district meeting. They had many questions on how we bill our customers fixed rate vs consumption. The fire district needs upgrades and their well is quite shallow so they are having some issues with capacity. Both towns will need to vote to merge. RTFD is still trying to determine their course of action. They have approximately 110 customers. With more users there is potential that all customers could see a decrease in their rates.
- b) **Town Manager Report** – One outstanding issue on Clarendon Avenue sidewalk where they tried to use the existing curbing. It is very uneven so they will install new curb and sidewalk. Pleasant Street water line replacement will finish the piping and connections this week, now waiting for the sidewalk and paving contractors. The VYCC crew is making good progress on the new trail, they will be here for another 3 weeks.

Board Member Concerns: Nick mentioned a tree on Clarendon Avenue near Crossman Lane is blocking the driver’s view. Also check the storm drain just below his house on Pleasant Street. Chet said that Pleasant Street was very rough over the weekend and no warning signs posted. Also, two way traffic continues on Fairview out of the recreation area. Perhaps placing a jersey barrier near the do not enter sign.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette