

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, December 13th, 2021
6:00 pm

Present: John Harvey, Chet Brown, Nick Notte and Dick Daley

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Mike Moser, Tom Lacz, Mike Skaza, John Center, Ed Bove, Christine Wener, Lisa Wright and Pat Trepanier. **Remote:** Eric Maher and Murph Higgins

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 Dick to approve the agenda with the addition of Action Item d) RFP Sidewalk Scoping Study. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2021. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Mike Moser showed a video of a white truck doing 360's in the Price Chopper parking lot. That is private property but Mary Ann will inform the sheriff.

Ed Bove spoke about Act 76, the Clean Water Service Delivery Act passed by the Vermont State Legislature in 2109. This Act mandates funding for non-regulatory clean water projects, establishes phosphorus reductions goals for basins and creates regional organizations called Clean Water Service Providers (CWSP). The RRPC and Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District have been designated the South Lake Champlain Basin Project. They will have \$500,000 to award beginning in July 2022. They are looking for a municipal partner to sit on their advisory board. Mary Ann offered to represent West Rutland.

Lisa Wright also inquired about updating our Town Plan to include an enhanced energy plan.

John Center inquired about the 25mph speed limit on Pleasant Street. He is wondering why it was changed. He has lived on the road for 46 years and has never seen anyone pulled over for speeding and no accidents due to speed. It's very difficult to drive 25mph especially going up the hill. The board explained that we have received many complaints of speeders, someone was actually driven off the road and hit a curb. John suggested 30mph would be more acceptable. John Harvey said the board would revisit it and Fabian's Excavating trucks were not the problem.

Executive Session: Motion made by Chet seconded by Dick to enter in executive session at 6:34pm for legal. Invite the listers to attend. John Harvey recused himself. Motion to exit executive session at 7:05 by Dick seconded by Chet.

Motion made by Dick seconded by Chet to enter into mediation with Velco for their 2019 and 2020 tax appeal with Nick Notte serving as the Town of West Rutland's representative.

Action Items:

- a) **Error & Omissions:** Lisa explained that Leo Digangi's name needs to be removed from the parcel as he has passed. Motion made by Chet seconded by Dick to remove Leo Digangi's name from parcel 280100149. Motion approved.
- b) **Letter of Support: Rutland County Solid Waste District** – Motion made by Nick seconded by Chet to send a letter of support to US Dept of Agriculture for financial resources to support improve planning and management of solid waste sites in rural areas. Motion approved.
- c) **Fire Department Appointments/Recognition** – The department held their annual meeting and voted Michael Skaza as chief and Tom Lacz as assistant chief. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to appoint Michael Skaza as fire chief and Tom Lacz as assistant chief for the two-year appointment. Motion approved. The board also recognizes and thanks the following members for their service. The following anniversaries were recognized for 2020 and 2021. Scott FitzGerald - 20 years (2020); Jeff Wos - 15 years (2020); Josh Webster - 5 years (2020); Joe Skaza - retirement with 48 years of service (2020); Pete Guay - 30 years (2021); Lori Lyons - 25 years (2021); Tyler Alexander - 10 years (2021); Dillon Notte - 5 years (2021) and Steve Czachor - 35 years of service as Town Forest Fire Warden.
- d) **RFP Scoping Study** – This is a grant funded scoping study for sidewalks on Pleasant Street from Business Route 4 to Sheldon; Pleasant Street from Baxter to Durgy Hill; Thrall from the Park n Ride to Sheldon; Ross Street Main Street to fence and Franklin to end; Main Street from Proctor to Gilmore; Dewey Avenue from Clarendon Avenue to Clark Hill. Eric Hall, the project MPM, Mary Ann Goulette, Sean Barrows and Derek Kenison will serve as the selection committee. Mr. Moser asked about a walkway into the Westway Mall on the western side of the drive. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to issue the RFP for the Transportation Alternative Program Sidewalk Scoping Study as written. Motion approved.

Discussion Items:

- a) **Municipal Mask Mandate** – Discussion among the board members. Due to lack of enforcement, we will leave it up to the individual businesses to decide.
- b) **21-22 Budget Discussions:**
 - a. Listers – Lisa requested a cost of living raise for the listers, she also suggested hiring an assessor's clerk to handle the clerical duties.
 - b. Fire Department – Chief Skaza produced an apparatus capital replacement plan which shows our current fleet and the expected replacement timeline. The chief suggested we replace engine 3 (16 years old) with a mid-sized rescue pumper at an estimated cost of \$380,000. Our savings account has \$432,691.46. The current truck is undersized as the rescue tools are much heavier. This truck is the most used. We should order it now as it may take up to a year for delivery. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to move forward with ordering a replacement truck for Engine 3 with the approximate cost of \$380,000. The next replacement needed will be the ladder truck in FY28.
 - c. Town Clerk – Chris Wener would like to begin training her assistant Deb Jasmin. Would like to look at funding two positions for a total of 60 hours a week with insurance.
 - d. Zoning – Jeff is reducing the number of towns he serves to three. He would like to continue in West Rutland but is looking for help with his insurance costs.

c) Town Manager Report –

- a. Pole banners** - Mary Ann presented the image of the new pole banners honoring West Rutland's fallen soldiers. The banners will be placed on Main Street and are funded through the WWII memorial fund.
- b. Proposed Ordinances** - We have a resident looking for an ordinance on keeping livestock. The issue is getting addressed with the new zoning requirements. We need to look at an ordinance for weight restrictions on Town roads in order for the town to get the full \$ penalties. Mary Ann will consult other towns and submit a draft.

Board Member Concerns:

Chet – is the wastewater UV system getting replaced? Mary Ann said the engineers are still working on it. We will reopen our search for the third wastewater/ water operator in the spring.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette