

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, March 14th, 2022
6:00 pm

Present: John Harvey, Chet Brown, Nick Notte and John Center

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

Via Zoom: Jeff Biasuzzi, Paul Grabowski Encore Representatives: Jake Clark, Ralph Meima, and Caity Hines.

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

Agenda Approval: Motion by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the agenda with the addition of Action Items: Liquor License Renewal for Walgreens and Sandri's Sunoco and Planning Grant agreement with Rutland Region Planning Commission. Motion approved unanimously.

Organization of the Board:

A) Election of Officers:

- a. Chair** - Nick made a motion to nominate John Harvey as chair seconded by Chet. Motion approved.
- b. Vice Chair** – Chet made a motion to nominate Nick as vice chair seconded by John Center. Motion approved.
- c. Secretary** – Nick made a motion to nominate Chet as secretary seconded by John Center. Motion approved.

B) Rules of Procedure – Mary Ann incorporated some language to address virtual meetings. Motion by Chet seconded by Nick to adopt the Selectboard Rules of Procedure. Motion approved.

C) Conflict of Interest Policy – Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy as presented. Motion approved.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2022. Motion approved. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2022. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: The Board offered condolences to the family of Charleen Bowen, who served as secretary for the board for many years.

Action Items:

- a) Town Official Appointments** – Mary Ann presented the list of appointees (see attached). We have not yet confirmed the DRB appointment of Jon Wallace whose term ends in 2022. Paul Kulig is our Regional Ambulance representative and was present to discuss their current situation. There is a national and statewide shortage of EMT workers. Workers are retiring or leaving for higher pay in other states. The training opportunities in Vermont are limited and expensive. Call volume is up and response time

maybe delayed. There are usually four ambulances scheduled but they are also required for transport to Dartmouth or Burlington. Mutual aid call in the last two months were: 4 to Brandon, 1 Fair Haven, 7 Mt Holly and 21 Wallingford. Dispatch services are also changing and will cost Towns more dollars. The Motion made by Chet to appoint the list of officials as presented. Seconded by Nick. Motion approved.

- b) **Certification of Town Road and Bridge Standards** – Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to adopt the Certification of Town Road and Bridge Standards. Motion passed.
- c) **Liquor License Renewal:**
 - a. **American Legion Post #87** – Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the first class, third class and outside liquor license for American Legion Post #87. It was noted a number of directors have resigned. Motion approved.
 - b. **The Tavern** - Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the first class, third class and outside liquor license for The Tavern. Motion approved.
 - c. **Walgreens** – Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the second class liquor license for Walgreens. Motion approved.
 - d. **Sandri Sunoco** - Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the second class liquor license for Sandri Sunoco. Motion approved.
- a) **Sign VTrans Grant STP BP21(14)** : This \$320,000 grant agreement is for the Marbleway Path through the Vtrans Large Scale Project. The Town is responsible for a 20% match. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to authorize Mary Ann to sign the grant agreement for Vtrans STP BP21(14). Motion approved.
- b) **Amendment to Traffic Ordinance** - This amendment designates weight limits on roads and bridges as indicated by Vermont statute. Whipple Hollow Road from Route 4a to Pleasant Street extension is authorized only to 18,000 due to the bridge restrictions. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to adopt the weight limit amendment to the traffic ordinance as presented. Motion approved.
- c) **Sign RRPC Grant Admin Agreement** - This grant agreement is for administration of the Bylaw Modernization Grant. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to sign the RRPC grant agreement to administer the Bylaw Modernization Grant. Motion approved.

Discussion Items:

- a) **Boardman Hill Solar** – Jake Clark provided introductions a company history of his company Encore. They have 20 employees in Vermont. The project is 2.2 megawatt on 15 acres on boardman hill. The project will use single axis trackers which rotate towards the sun providing a smaller footprint and the panels allow for shed of snow. It will be fenced in with an agricultural fence which allows small wildlife to pass. A transformer and small access road will be installed. The vegetated screening on Boardman Hill will consist of 30-35 conifer and 50 deciduous trees. They have a 25 year contract and have confirmed a standard offer program. There will be a bond issued for decommissioning increased with inflation. They will file to the PSB within 6 weeks, will notify neighbors and possibly construct late fall. Jeff Biasuzzi asked for a larger and detailed landscaping

plan and a maintenance plan. He also asked if this plan will be expanded into other phases. The answer was no. The property is leased. Zoning permits will be needed for the access road and for any signage needs. Encore is looking for a letter from the town that this project complies with or does not violate the town plan. Discussion on the language in the town plan that does not support large scale solar projects.

- b) **Cannabis Growing & Licensing** – discussion with zoning administrator on the current regulations. The State will issue licensing. We may want to write an ordinance to enforce.

Board Member Concerns:

Chet – Wondering the status of the Dam removal on Dewey Avenue. Jeff is working on permitting. There are many parties involved. Our biggest concern is the truck traffic.

Nick – garbage issue on Raven’s lane. Mary Ann said one letter was already sent. They recently had a death in the family.

John Center – what is the status of Main Street Cash Market. Jeff said they were waiting for the structural survey to see if the building was salvageable. Would like to revisit the speed limit on Pleasant Street.

Adjournment: Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette