

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, June 13th, 2022
6:00 pm

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

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Mike Moser, Don Moyer, Signe Firpo, Michael Firpo, Ethan Turner, Mark Fitzgerald, Theresa Amelang, Steffanie Bourque of RRPC, Bob Parkman, Sean Barrows and Michael Skaza. Via Zoom – Daniel Biggs and Jack Grieshober of Weston and Sampson.

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

Agenda Approval: Motion by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the agenda with the removal of skateboard park presentation. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of May 16th, 2022. Motion approved. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of April 11th, 2022. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Bob Parkman was present to discuss the rust found frequently in his water. Seth has tried to flush the line which has helped in the short term. Seth has determined the cause of the rust is because they are at the end of the line and the water line is old. Discussion on creating a loop and connecting with the other end of Hansen Drive, replacing the old line or eliminating the discontinued line past Kelleys. Mary Ann will speak with Otter Creek to try to find a low cost solution. Seth will flush the line and look into a possible filtration system.

Local Concerns Meeting – West Rutland Sidewalks: Mary Ann introduced Dan Biggs and Jack Grieshober from Weston and Sampson, and Steffanie Bourque from RRPC who is the project manager. The Town received a Transportation Alternative Grant for \$24,000 to study new and replacement sidewalk segments on Dewey Ave, Main St, Pleasant St., Ross Street and Thrall Avenue. All segments are replacements except Dewey Ave. The existing sidewalks are in poor conditions, cracked, heaved and non-ADA compliant. Dewey Avenue is a residential neighborhood that sees lots of traffic with no safe pedestrian access. The residential area also extends up to Clark Hill, Hansen and Maplewood. The Town recently lowered the speed limit to 25mph to try to create a safer environment. The study will look at the feasibility of adding a sidewalk and the existing constraints. Theresa Amelang spoke that Dewey Avenue is not conducive to adding sidewalks. She has a signed petition from 13 Dewey Avenue households that do not want a sidewalk on their street. Theresa has concerns about losing her historic stone wall. The Firpos indicated they are the only household with children on Dewey Avenue. There was also concern of losing some of the large mature trees on the Street. John Harvey thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

Action Items:

- a) **Sheriff's Contract July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023** – Sheriff Fox presented this contract in December for our budget discussions. The new fee is \$48.27 per hour capped at \$100,401.60 inclusive of cruiser and animal control. Questions on increasing gas prices. The contract does state the sheriff reserves the right to re-negotiate cruiser costs if fuel increases to more than \$3.50 gallon. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to sign the sheriff's contract at \$100,401.60. Motion approved.
- b) **Approve Fairfield Trackless Repair** – Sean was present to discuss the quote of \$15,192.82 to replace the drive and motor. The machine is a 2016 and has 1850 hours. A new one will cost over \$120K and we have all the attachments. Motion made by Nick seconded by Chet to approve the trackless repair in the amount of \$15,192.82. We will use the sidewalk repair budget. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **ATV Landowner agreement** – The ATV Club represented by chair Mark Fitzgerald is asking for permission to use Clark Hill Road. The agreement is a renewal and runs for 5 years, expiring in 2027. Motion made by Nick seconded by Dick to sign the landowner permission to allow the ATV club access to Clark Hill Road for 5 years. Motion approved unanimously.
- d) **Approve pump station repairs: Champlin Associates** - Three of our pump stations need repairs and cannot wait for the plant upgrade. We have 3 quotes from Champlin Assc: Harrison Avenue needs a rotating assembly at \$9,295; Baxter Street needs a mission alarm install with streaming data at \$7,4310.02; and Elm Street needs a new control panel installed at \$45,220.82. Motion made by Dick seconded by Chet to accept the Champlin Associates quotes totaling \$61,946.84 for pump station upgrades at Harrison, Baxter and Elm Street. Motion approved. Chet also suggested getting quotes to upgrade the recreation center as we anticipate more traffic.
- e) **Grants in Aid Letter of Intent** – Participation in this program gives municipalities funding to help with implementation for compliance with our municipal roads general permit. This year's funding is expected to be \$15,000 and requires a 20% match. We will likely work on Clark Hill and Boardman Hill. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to sign the letter of intent for the 2022 Grants in Aid Program. Motion approved.
- f) **Young's Brook Dam Removal** – The State is coordinating the dam removal, which is the town's old reservoir, with the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District. They hope the Town will be willing to oversee the project and be the pass through for the funds. We will receive a % for managing the funds. The estimated cost is \$500K+ and they expect to use Federal funds with a construction date in 2023. Motion made by Dick seconded by Nick to act as fiscal agent for the Young's Brook Dam Removal. Motion approved.
- g) **Warning for Retail Cannabis Opt In** – According to the new Vermont Law, municipalities must opt in for a retail cannabis in their town with voter approval. We

have had inquiries so Mary Ann advises that we include the question(s) on the August primary vote.

Article #1 - Shall the town authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A §863?

Article #2 - Shall the town authorize retail portions of integrated licensee operations in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. §863?

Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to sign the warning for retail cannabis for the August 9th primary as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

- a) **Audit Report for 20/21** – This audit also includes the single audit with NeighborWorks and they contribute for their portion of the cost. We were delayed this year due to staff shortage. We are still in a healthy financial position. Discussion regarding FEMA reimbursement for Dewey Avenue. Reconciliation of bank statements are still a problem due to the 3rd party credit card system and the timing of the bank.

- b) **Town Manager Report**
 - a. **Dewey Avenue** – Belden is back working and we have a new plan due to the finding of unsuitable soil. We will need to bring in a lightweight material called Glavel. We will be working with FEMA for a time extension, change of scope and additional funding of approximately \$100,000+.
 - b. **Memorial Garden** – We have been asked by a resident to install a Memorial Garden in honor of the those loved ones who we’ve lost. Discussion on locations, and a possible fountain.
 - c. **ARPA Funds** – still working on a list of projects for consideration.

Board Member Concerns:

John Center – Any update on Cash Market? A zoning violation has been issued.

Dick Daley – any update on the problems on Whipple Hollow? Mary Ann spoke with the property owner and sheriff. Seems to have quieted down.

Chet – dirt bike riding around town with no helmet. Mary Ann already notified the sheriff this morning. Working on costs for the pavilion.

Adjournment: Dick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm and John Center seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette