

**Minutes**  
**West Rutland Selectboard Meeting**  
**Monday, July 11th, 2022**  
**6:00 pm**

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

**Others Present:** Mary Ann Goulette, Mike Moser, Dave Potter, Kyle Mason, Barb Flint, Lee Gauthier.

**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 John Center to add three items under action items to the agenda: d) sewer allocation: Rice e) Clearwater Blvd culvert replacement f) Pleasant Heights manhole. Motion approved unanimously.

**Minutes Approval:** Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the minutes of June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Motion approved.

**Public Concerns:** Dave Potter was present to inform the audience he was running again for State Representative. He has 16 years of experience most recently on the House Transportation Committee. He has supported the Town of West Rutland in a variety of ways: Rotary scholarships, as a volunteer to install the new boardwalk and playground. He also helped with the Pleasant Street cemetery cleaning. He prides himself on working with others to get things done.

The Neighborhood Watch Group introduced themselves. They have a facebook page and meeting regularly to educate residents on how to protect our community from crime. They are conducting night patrols and informing police. They do see cars at the recreation area after hours. Discussion on gating and signage. John Harvey thanked the group for their proactive measures. Everyone must be diligent, if you see something say something.

**Action Items:**

- a) **Set Municipal Tax Rate** – Mary Ann reviewed a spreadsheet that indicated our grand list dropped due to the Velco appeal. The municipal rate will increase to .8124 but the education rate has decreased resulting to an overall property tax decrease of three cents for homestead and the same rate for non-homestead. Motion made by Nick seconded by Chet to set the municipal tax rate at .8124. Motion approved unanimously.
- b) **Approve 22/23 Audit Proposal** – Sullivan and Powers presented this year's contract at a price of \$21,400 for the regular audit. If a single audit is needed it will be billed at an hourly rate plus expenses. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the 22/23 audit proposal in the amount of \$21,400. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **Clark Hill Forest Management Plan** – Kyle Mason, the county forester, presented the management plan with some proposed changes/clarifications of the already approved forest management plan. Work will begin in stands 1,2,3 & 4 plus the previously

approved sections. Trees will be marked and we will go to bid possibly this fall. Approval on installation of a deer fence, bidding in conjunction with the adjacent landowner Doty, enrolling into a tree farm program and possibly setting up a self-guided educational tour. Mary Ann discussed the need for a parking area.

- d) **Approve Sewer Allocation: 100 Mountain View Drive** - Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the sewer allocation of Timothy Rice at 100 Mountain View Road for a four bedroom home. The connection needs to bore under Durgy Hill paved road. Motion approved.
- e) **Approve Pleasant Heights manhole installation** – John Center recused himself from this agenda item. Fabians submitted a proposal to install a basin at the bottom of Pleasant Heights for \$7,355. The manhole is needed due to the ongoing water issue on Thrall Avenue. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the Fabian’s proposal of \$7,355 to install a basin on Pleasant Heights. Motion approved.
- f) **Approve Clearwater Blvd culvert replacement** – John Center recused himself from this agenda item. The existing culverts are failing near Route 4. Sean has purchased the culverts and received State approval to work in the wetlands. Fabian’s proposal is \$18,430 to remove and install the two new culverts and repair the road. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the proposal from Fabian’s of \$18,430 for culvert replacement on Clearwater Blvd. Motion approved.

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### **a) Town Manager Report**

- a. **Personnel Update** – Frank Gorham was due to return back to work on July 1<sup>st</sup> but has submitted his resignation. We hired Justin Gates, a town resident, as a new highway employee. Dave Zawistowski has transferred to the water/wastewater department.
- b. **Dewey Avenue** – Construction is nearly complete. We are working with FEMA for a change of scope to get additional funds.
- c. **VOSHA inspection** – Thank you to John Harvey for assisting in the recent VOSHA inspection.

#### **Board Member Concerns:**

John Center – Concern on thefts. Need to lock up and stay aware.

Chet – any update on the roadside mower. Still waiting for a part but we are inquiring to nearby Towns for availability. Update on Blanchard drainage. We need to hire an engineer because of the utilities.

**Adjournment:** Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Goulette