

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, December 12th, 2022
6:00 pm

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

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Michael Skaza, fire chief, Tom Lacz, assistant fire chief. Sheriff Fox. Via zoom: Ethan Pepin, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Dale Christie, Proctor Planning Commission.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:58pm by John Harvey with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Motion by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of November 14th, 2022. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: None.

Discussion Items:

- a) **2023/24 Sheriff Budget**– Sheriff Fox was present to discuss next year budget request of a 4% increase which totals approximately \$104,416. The Sheriff also discussed his staffing issues and we will be billed for total hours worked, which maybe below the 40 hours until he can address the staffing issues. Discussion on the truck traffic on Whipple Hollow Road and how to address it. OMYA is no longer funding any patrol in West Rutland but is in Pittsford.
- b) **202/23 Fire Department Budget**– The fire chief and assistant chief were present to discuss budget line items and capital goals. Most budget items are level funded. We are increasing truck savings by \$5,000, also adding a new line item of personal protective equipment with \$9,000. The existing gear is 20 years old and each set costs \$3,000. We will try to add 3 sets annually. Overall budget is up \$12,355 or 5.8%. The capital equipment needs are replacement of vehicle extrication tools for approx. \$70,000. Our existing equipment is 25 years old; unreliable and unserviceable. A base radio to replace the 20-year old system at \$29,000 and radio repeater to ensure reliable communications during an emergency at \$15,000. We have approx. \$90,000 in our equipment savings. Motion made by Chet to purchase the radio gear as soon as possible as it will probably take 8 months to deliver. Seconded by Nick. Motion passed unanimously. They will begin to demo extrication tools to purchase at a later date.
- c) **Review Draft Audit Report** – The general fund is showing a loss of \$52,299 because we have not yet received the FEMA reimbursement of approx. \$600,000. All other accounts are in order.

- d) **Rutland Town Fire District Hydraulic Analysis Report** – The independent study was completed by Vermont Rural Water and Otter Creek Engineering. There is significant fire flow capability and no notable restrictions in the piping. One fire hydrant on Barrett hill needs repair. Mary Ann informed the board if there are no other concerns, the fire district will vote in January and we can vote in March to absorb the fire district and their 200 customers. Discussion on new meters, a pressure reducing valve and the benefits to West Rutland.
- e) **Town Manager Report** -
 - a. VOSHA informal hearing – Mary Ann met with the hearing officer and all safety items were corrected since the June inspection. The fines were reduced to \$5,700. The health citation was just received and Mary Ann will meet with VLCT on an action plan.
 - b. Jacob Crockett is a new hire for highway and will begin in January.
 - c. We are writing grants for a culvert replacement on Whipple Hollow and a mural on Marble Street.
 - d. Lawn Mowing Bids are due next week.
 - e. We are purchasing chairs and tables from Sweet Caroline’s for the auditorium.

Action Items:

- a) **Listers Error & Omissions** – Lisa indicated there was an error on parcel 295020185 Thorpe. The house is still under construction. Change assessment from \$84,100 to \$45,300. Motion made by Dick seconded by John Center. Motion approved.
- b) **Tri Town Loop Grant Application** – This application is with the Towns of Pittsford and Proctor for a \$50,000 scoping study for the Transportation Alternative Program. The Tri Town Bike Loop will study how to utilize on road and shared-use paths to connect the village centers of Pittsford, Proctor and West Rutland to create a safe and accessible recreational and tourism asset for the area. Our match is 1/3 of the \$10,000. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to send a letter of support for the grant application and matching funds. Motion approved.
- c) **Personnel Policy Amendment** – Based on a recommendation from VLCT and the difficulties in bookkeeping, we are proposing to eliminate comp time from the personnel policy. Overtime hours will be paid directly as worked. Motion made by Chet seconded by Dick. Motion approved.

Board Member Concerns:

Dick Daley – still would like to see the manholes on Pleasant Street fixed. Asked last year and nothing has been done.

John Center – Are we able to get the speed radar sign set up on Main Street? Mary Ann will check.

Adjournment: Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette