

**Minutes**  
**West Rutland Selectboard Meeting**  
**Monday, January 9th, 2023**  
**6:00 pm**

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

**Others Present:** Mary Ann Goulette, Christine Wener, Mike Moser, Sean Barrows

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

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

**Minutes Approval:** Motion made by Nick seconded by Chet to approve the minutes of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Motion approved.

**Public Concerns:** None.

**Action Items:**

- a) **Award Lawn Mowing Bid** – Mary Ann indicated this bid is for 3 years rather than 5 due to rising costs. We also reduced the number of mowing to 20 since some weeks may not require service. The bids were broken down into two bids and were calculated based on estimate of mowing. Bid #1 covers all general areas, water department and pump stations. Bid #2 covers the recreation area, the dog park and trails. We received 4 bids for Bid #1: Reed’s Lawn Mowing \$10,780, Gallipo Landscaping for \$10,840, Intrinsic Property Services at \$15,940 and Academy Construction at \$13,440. Discussion on the many complaints we receive with our current vendor. Motion made by Dick seconded by Nick to award Bid #1 Mowing to Gallipo Landscaping. Motion approved. Bid #2 results were: Reed at \$6,200, Gallipo at \$7,200, Intrinsic \$7,900 and Academy at \$11,200. Mary Ann said Steve Pietryka is already at the park and trimming etc. We have the machine and estimate we can do the work closer to \$4,000. Motion made by Dick seconded by Nick for Bid #2 to be performed in house. Motion approved.
- b) **Sign TA 65 Request for Reimbursement – Structures Grant** – We need to request reimbursement from the Vtrans Structures Grant in the amount of \$200,000 for the Whipple Hollow Bridge. The total costs for the project were \$364,425.00 with Daniel’s Construction. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to sign the TA65 Request for Reimbursement for the VTrans Structures Grant BC2231 in the amount of \$200,000. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **Elm Street Pump Station Quote** – New pumps at Elm Street were part of the wastewater upgrade report. However, the pumps are 22 years old and are costing us too much money with problems and callouts. Seth received a quote from Champlin Associates for the removal of the old pumps, purchase and installation of two new pumps at a cost of \$96,020.10. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to accept the

quote from Champlain Associates to remove, purchase and install two new pumps for the Elm Street pump station for the price of \$96,020.10 as submitted. We will try to keep one of the pumps as backup. Motion approved.

**Discussion Items:**

- a) **2023/24 Admin Budget**– Mary Ann said the budget overall is extremely difficult this year. Every line item is seeing an increase due to inflation and COLA. Chris Wener inquired about adding in \$19,500 for an assistant clerk. She will need to start training as she transitions to retirement. Mary Ann said the auditorium is extremely busy with rentals so we are seeing more revenue. The property and liability insurance and workman’s comp have increases due to a rise in property values and a workman’s comp claim. The numbers also look worse because VLCT gave us a refund last year as they had a surplus.
- b) **2023/24 Recreation Budget**– Steve Pietryka has the recreation area looking great. He will take care of all the mowing for the fields and trails. We continue to contribute \$20K for capital improvements for the pavilion. We have approximately \$87K in the recreation savings. Mary Ann is looking for grants and the possibility of ARPA funds to complete the pavilion.
- c) **2023/24 Highway Budget** – Most line items have an increase as costs continue to rise. We are adding two line items: \$13,500 for crack sealing and \$5,000 for rental equipment such as a roller. We tried crack sealing this year and are seeing good results. Preventive maintenance is important to our paved roads. We have a number of roads that need attention this year: Skyline Drive (and replacement of water line, Whipple Hollow Road, Pleasant Street and Sheldon. A bandaid for Skyline will be approx. \$53,000. We will need an increase in the paving article to get caught up on roads. We are back to full staff in the department with the hiring of Jacob Crockett. We need to continue to contribute to our bridge reserve for Water Street.
- d) **Town Manager Report** -
  - a. VOSHA informal hearing – Mary Ann met with the hearing officer again on the health citations. The fines were reduced to \$6,580. All of the written programs will be updated by January 30, 2023.

**Board Member Concerns:**

Dick Daley – Are we going to fix the manholes on Pleasant Street?

**Adjournment:** Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Goulette