

**Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, May 8th, 2023
6:00 pm held at the Fire Station**

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

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Sheriff Fox, Fire Chief Skaza, Assistant Fire Chief Tom Lacz, Fire Department Members: Lori Lyons, Jeff Wos, Chris Jakubiak and Sean Barrows

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by John Harvey with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Motion by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the agenda with the deletion of the Girl's Basketball Proclamation and addition under action items: Bruno's liquor license and Fire Cost Reimbursement and under discussion items: local options tax. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2023. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Sheriff Fox was present to discuss several incidents last month that required additional hours beyond the budgeted 40 hours per week. The attempted homicide case is with the States Attorney's office. Discussion on the carving studio vandalism.

Action Items:

- a) **Resolution: NeighborWorks Home/Rental Repair Grant Agreement**– The grant award is \$335,000 for home/rental repairs. This resolution states the acceptance of the conditions of the grant agreement. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to sign the resolution for the NeighborWorks Grant Agreement #07110-SS-2022. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) **Lister's Request – Grand List Filing Extension** – Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to request a 30 day extension to file the grand list per the listers request. Motion massed unanimously.
- c) **Recreation Area Pump Station Improvements** – The Town is looking at additional improvements to the recreation area such as a pavilion but currently the pump station does not have the capacity for more people. Otter Creek presented a proposal for \$6,500 to design upgrades to the wastewater pumpstation as necessary. Chet made a motion to approve the proposal by Otter Creek Engineering for \$6,500. Seconded by John Center. Motion approved unanimously.
- d) **Approve Liquor Licenses** – All the licenses are online and the town clerk approves them. Motion made Chet seconded by John Center to approve the 2023 liquor license for

Bruno's Bar & Grill - first, third and outside consumption license. Motion passed unanimously.

- e) **VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Letter of Support** – Mary Ann discussed applying for construction of the sidewalk segments identified through the scoping study. The estimated cost is \$1.4 million excluding Dewey Avenue and would require a 20% match of \$280,000. Discussion on skipping this round and focusing on paving roads. Item tabled.
- f) **VTrans Small Scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Letter of Support** – It was suggested to have a walking path along the perimeter of the school grounds for the running club, students and general public. We could apply for this grant which requires a 50% match and no engineering. The estimate from Fabian's Excavating is \$30,760 for a 1,450' x 8' recycled asphalt path and another \$42,200 if we want to pave it. The match would be \$15,380 and discussion on the Town and school contributing ¼ or \$7,690. Mary Ann will ask the school if they will contribute. Motion made by Chet and seconded by Nick to apply for the grant and the Town and School will share the match. Motion passed unanimously.
- g) **Fire Cost Reimbursement** – The State will reimburse Town fire departments \$500 per hour for suppressing a fire on state land. The West Rutland fire department has incurred two hours to suppress the forest fire that burned at the Whipple Hollow Wildlife Management Area on May 8th. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to request \$1,000 reimbursement for fire cost reimbursement. Motion approved

Discussion Items:

- a) **Fire Department Presentation and Tour of the Fire Station** – Chief Skaza presented an overview of the department operations including: volunteer requirements/training, budget details, call volume/type, current staff, point system and future needs/retention. The group also toured the facility. The selectboard thanked the department for their longstanding service and commitment to the Town.
- b) **Public Meeting – Housing Trust of Rutland County** – The Housing Trust is holding a public meeting on Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00pm for their proposed 24-unit project on the corner of Elm and Main Street. They will give details on the project, look for input on the design and share feedback.
- c) **Town Manager Report**
 - a. **Local Options Tax** – Mary Ann suggested we look at the possibility of collecting a 1% local tax similar to Rutland City and Rutland Town. These funds are shared with the State but the majority can go directly to the Town to offset costs in the budget. It would require a public vote to pass. Mary Ann to gather more information.

Board Member Concerns:

John Center – Is the sheriff bringing over the speed radar signs? They will now that the weather is improving.

Nick Notte – some 4 wheelers have created an access across the street from his house near a fire hydrant.

Adjournment: Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm and Dick seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette