

**Minutes  
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting  
Monday, November 13th, 2023  
6:00 pm**

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

**Others Present:** Mary Ann Goulette, Lisa Wright, Michael Skaza (Fire Chief) and Sean Barrows.

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

**Agenda Approval:** Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the agenda with the addition of Action Item f) Salt Bid and amend Action Item b) to include Fire Department Rescue Equipment. Motion approved.

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

**Public Concerns:** None

**Action Items:**

- a) **Lister Appeal** – Walgreens has appealed their property tax assessment and it will now go to the State of Vermont property valuation hearing officer. The listers have a proposal from Sansoucy for consulting and request for discovery at a cost of \$3,000. The amount of difference is \$400,000 which represents nearly \$10,000 in tax revenue. Motion made by John Center seconded by Chet to sign the Sansoucy agreement for Phase 1 of the tax appeal in the amount of \$3,000. Motion approved unanimously.
- b) **Fire Station Change Order / Rescue Equipment Purchase** – Fire Chief Michael Skaza presented the change order on the fire truck purchase. We prepaid the fire truck purchase in order to get the discount. The quote is an additional \$6,221 which includes miscellaneous items such as dome lights, nozzle bracket and gold leaf lettering. Motion made by John Center seconded by Chet to approve the change order for the fire truck purchase in the amount of \$6,221. Motion approved. As previously discussed Michael presented the quote of \$45,351 for the rescue equipment and tools with a lifetime warranty to replace our 25-year-old equipment. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **Request for Reimbursement TA65** – We had to modify our numbers and we are requesting \$190,705.83 grant reimbursement for the paving of Whipple Hollow Road. The total costs were \$238,382.29 and required a 20% match of \$47,676.46. Motion made by Chet and seconded by John Center to sign the TA 65 as presented. Motion approved.

- d) **Recreation Facilities Grant \$25,000** – Mary Ann applied for funds to construct the pavilion. There is no match required. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to accept the Recreation Facilities Grant in the amount of \$25,000. Motion approved unanimously.
- e) **Appoint Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee Voting Members** – Fire Chief Michael Skaza, the fire chief and Mary Ann Goulette, the emergency management director serves on this regional committee and are interested in reappointment. Motion made by John Center seconded by Chet to appoint Michael Skaza and Mary Ann Goulette to the Rutland Emergency Management Committee. Motion approved unanimously.
- f) **Salt Purchase** - This year's price is \$98/ton for enhanced deicer. The enhanced salt is treated and we are able to use less. We did not get our salt delivered in June because we have some leaks in the salt shed. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to purchase 1,000 tons of clearline deicer enhanced bulk salt at \$98.00 per ton. Motion approved unanimously.

**Discussion Items:**

- a) **Act 68 Municipal Reappraisals** – Lisa Wright presented information on new legislation which addresses the State removing the grand list from local municipal control and replacing it with a single statewide reappraisal system run by the Vermont Department of Taxes. There are many issues with this proposal and it's important we speak with our local legislatures.
- b) **Town Manager Report-**
  - a. Budget schedule – we will meet twice in December and twice in January to review budgets.
  - b. Implementation Grant VOREC – This grant is available for outdoor recreation economic collaborative projects. Mary Ann would like to apply for \$200,000 for the pavilion, we have \$100,000 in our capital improvement fund, some of which is the donation from the Rotary Club. Mary Ann is requesting a letter of support and a motion to approve the \$2,500 cost for the engineering of the pavilion. Motion made by Dick seconded by John Center to sign a letter of support for the VOREC grant and spend \$2500 on the engineering of the pavilion. Motion approved.
  - c. Dam Removal Update - We received \$304,000 additional funding from the Clean Water Service Provider for the Otter Creek Basin. We still need to get approval on the placement of the sediment.
  - d. PFAS Settlement – There are two recent class action settlement involving PFAS and public water systems. We can decide to remain in the suit or opt out and stay with the State of Vermont lawsuit. Mary Ann will gather more information.
  - e. Website Update – Mary Ann and Stan are soliciting a new government website template. Will provide the board with a recommendation soon.

**Board Member Concerns:**

John Center – Any update from the State to remove the downed trees in the right of way near the Westway Mall. It looks unwelcoming.

Dick – there is an illegal access across the street from Nick Notte on Pleasant Street. Also need to send out a reminder on parking ban and no parking on sidewalks.

John Harvey – A number of unregistered cars at 210 Pleasant Street.

**Adjournment:** Dick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm and John Center seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Goulette