

**Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, January 8th, 2024
6:00 pm**

Present: John Harvey, John Center and Chet Brown

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Mark Youngstrom with Otter Creek Engineering, Seth Pietryka, Sean Barrows and Mike Moser.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm 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: Champlain Associates mission system proposal. Motion approved.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 11th, 2023 with a spelling correction on page 2. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Mr. Moser requested snow removal from the center island crosswalk in front of the Westway Mall.

Discussion Items:

- a) **Pressure Reducing Valve Location** – Mark Youngstrom was present to discuss options for the installation of the pressure reducing valve. There isn't a viable location on Route 4 and the corner of Pleasant Street presents difficulties of access and will require state access approval and electricity. The best location is the corner of Sheldon and Pleasant. It has good access, is gravity fed so it will not need electricity, but it will add 700' of waterline to connect. The materials alone are an additional cost of \$30,000. We will also need to remove the sidewalk. Mary Ann said we have plans to replace that section of sidewalk. Seth and Sean both agreed Sheldon was the best location. The selectboard agreed that, despite incurring additional costs, choosing this location for the long term was the most advantageous decision. Mark Youngstrom will finish design and we will go to bid this spring.
- b) **Listers Update** – Tabled until next meeting.
- c) **23/24 Highway Budget** – Sean Barrows was present to discuss this year's budget. There was a lengthy discussion on existing equipment and future needs. We will need to replace the tandem in approximately 3 years. While the trackless does very well in sidewalk snow removal, maintaining it for summer mowing proves to be labor-intensive. Mowing could be done more quickly and easily with a tractor. Discussion on costs and looking for a used machine. The salt shed is also experiencing some leaks. It is 18 years old and has surpassed its expected life. The last bond payment will be paid in November 2025. Sean has reached out to a manufacturer for pricing since the one from which we

bought the salt shed has now closed. More discussion on paving, crack sealing and sidewalk repairs. Overall highway budget is at a 9.1% increase.

- d) **Recreation Budget** – Mary Ann presented the proposed budget showing a 12.2% budget increase for the department. We have budgeted 20 hours per week for the recreation director and Steve will stay on as maintenance. We should hear on the grant for the pavilion in February.
- e) **Overall Budget** – Most items are level funded as much as possible. The Town Hall restroom bond is paid off. We will move additional funding into the capitol improvement account. Overall budget is at a 5.6% increase.

Action Items:

- a) **Review Champlain's Mission System Proposal** – The proposal is in response to the State sanitary survey letter. They are requesting the addition of an alarm system to both storage tanks. The quote is for \$21,723.46 also includes the well house. Seth also received a quote to alarm the wastewater plant for \$5,111.90. Mark Youngstrom agreed this is best way for water and wastewater departments to monitor their facilities. It is reliable and can save on personnel costs and callouts. Mary Ann indicated we did have the funds in our capital improvement accounts. Motion made by Chet and seconded by John Center to approve the two proposals from Champlain Associates \$21,723.46 for mission systems at the two storage tanks and well house and \$5,111.90 for the wastewater plant. Motion approved unanimously.

Board Member Concerns:

John Center – Our thoughts go out to Nick Notte as he is recovering at home.

There are trucks drag racing at the north end of Pleasant Street. Description of two pickup trucks: one white and the other burgundy, and the identification of drivers to report to the sheriff's office.

Executive Session: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Cetner to enter executive session at 7:52pm for contract discussion. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to exit executive session at 7:58pm. No action taken.

Adjournment: John Center made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette