

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, March 18, 2023

Present: Chet Brown, John Harvey, and John Center

Others Present: Deb Jasmin, Jeff Biasuzzi, Sean Barrows, Lisa Wright, Lori Lyons

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by John Harvey with the pledge of allegiance. Moment of silence in memory of Butch Goulette.

Agenda Approval: Motion made by Chet, seconded by John Center to approve the agenda with the addition of Liquor License for Sweet Caroline's. Motion approved unanimously.

Organization of the Board:

- A) Election of Officers:** Chet made a motion to elect John Harvey as Chair. Seconded by John Center. Motion approved. John Center made a motion to elect Chet Brown as Vice Chair, seconded by John Harvey. Motion approved. Chet made a motion to elect John Center as Secretary, seconded by John Harvey. Motion approved.
- B) Rules of Procedure:** Chet made a motion to adopt the Selectboard Rules of procedure, seconded by John Center. Motion approved.
- C) Conflict of Interest Policy:** Motion made by Chet, seconded by John Center to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy. Motion approved.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet and seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2024. Motion approved. Motion made by Chet and seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting. Motion approved.

Public Hearing 2024 Town Plan: John Harvey opened a public hearing at 6:05 pm upon motion by Chet and motion seconded by John Center. Motion approved.

Sean introduced the revised town plan. Certain statutes were updated and demographics. He thanked the Regional Planning Commission for their input. John Harvey asked if there were any question from the Board. Chet states that he read it and found it well written. John Center added that it was well organized. Testimony from those present: Deb Jasmin gave the Oath to Jeff Biasuzzi, Sean Barrows, Lisa Wright and Lori Lyons. Lisa thanked the Planning Commission for the hard work they have done on the town plan. She has a few points of concern. 1) The amendments that are required by statute coming in 2025 will reopen the town plan again next year. The Home Act and the Enhanced Energy Act amendments are budgeted in the town budget. Lisa volunteered to be on the committee when the town looks at these amendments. 2) concerns about viewing the maps. They are tiny and the over lays make them hard to figure out. 3) prohibitions on industrial wind would like to see those stay in, like those to be strengthen perhaps with an enhanced energy plan. 4) concerns about over reach from the state on the renewable energy plan. Feels strongly that this is our town plan and should not be written by an outsider who is hired by the state. 5) zoning vs town plan. Zoning ordinances should flow from the town plan. There are concerns that there is a little of Zoning driving the town plan.

Jeff responded to Lisa's points. He agrees that the maps are tiny. To rectify that, we have ordered traditional maps that are larger. They will be available digitally on our website and there will be 11x17" maps available with the town plan. The overlay maps are separate now and relatively distinct. Jeff mentioned an email from Mitch Frankenberg in which he addresses habitat corridors. Board members have copies of this email. Mitch makes suggestions for minor changes to the corridor language. Jeff

clarifies the town plan once approved, will be amended over time. Enhanced Energy plans if approved by state and regional planning commissions, gives the municipality substantial deference in evaluation of a sustainable energy projects. Under substantial deference, the Public Utility Commission gives the town special attention opposed to what we have now which is due diligence. We are a long way from this happening. The State Enhanced Energy plans are not a requirement for this year. The Home Act is a requirement for this year, in which housing opportunities are made for everyone. Jeff explains this act also known as Act 47, is mostly zoning. John Harvey asked if there were any more comments. Hearing none, motion made by Chet to close the public hearing on the 2024 Town Plan, seconded by John Center. All in favor, motion approved. Regular Selectboard meeting resumed.

Action Items:

- a) **Adoption of 2024 Town Plan** – Motion made by John Center to adopt the 2024 Town Plan as written, seconded by Chet. All in favor, motion approved.
- b) **Approve Highway Financial Plan** – Motion made by Chet to approved the Highway Financial Plan, seconded by John Center. All in favor, motion approved.
- c) **Adopt 2024 Road and Bridge Standards** – Motion made by Chet to adopt the 2024 Road and Bridge Standards, seconded by John Center. All in favor, motion approved.
- d) **Review of Liquor and Tobacco Licenses** – Motion made by Chet, seconded by John Center to approve: Walgreen Second Class Liquor and Tobacco Licenses; Jiffy Mart Tobacco Substitute License; Sandri Tobacco and Tobacco substitute Licenses; Sweet Caroline’s First- and Third-Class Liquor Licenses. All in favor, motion approved.

Motion made by Chet, seconded by John Center to enter Executive Session. All in favor. Board entered into executive session at 6:40 pm. Motion by Chet, seconded by John Center to exit Executive Session. All in favor, Board exited executive session at 6:45 pm.

- e) **Appoint 2024 Town Officials** –A List of appointments was presented (see attached). No changes from last year. Chet made a motion to accept all appointments as listed with the exception of DRB appointment. Motion seconded by John Center. The DRB appointment suspended until after the DRB meeting on April 17, 2024. All in favor, motion approved.
- f) **Award Elm Street Sidewalk Bid** -Item tabled for another meeting.
- g) **Approve Sewer Connection** – Poultney Pools – Motion made by Chet, seconded by John Center to waive connection fees. All in favor, motion approved. Motion to approve their permit made by Chet, seconded by John Center. All in favor, motion approved.
- h) **Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Proposal** – Motion made by Chet, seconded by John Center to approve the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Proposal of \$61,100. All in favor, motion approved.
- i) **Letter of Support Library Grant** - Motion made by Chet, seconded by John Center to ratify Library Letter of Support. All in favor, motion approved.

Discussion Items: Town Manager Report - Pressure Reducing Valve Bid – Tabled for another meeting.

Board Member Concerns: No concerns

Executive Session: Motion by Chet, seconded by John Center for Board to enter Executive Session at 6:55 pm. All in favor, motion approved. Motion by Chet, seconded by Jon Center for Board to leave Executive Session at 6:57 pm. All in favor, motion approved.

Motion made by Chet, seconded by John Center to accept **Burlett Stipulation**. All in favor, motion approved.

Adjournment: Motion made by Chet, seconded by John Center to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm. Respectfully submitted by Deb Jasmin