

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 15, 2000

PRESENT: Don Anderson, Steve Leach, Brian Greenia-Chair, Jim Paige, Lee Sturtevant

DEPT. HEADS: MaryAnn W., Carol B., Ken S., Richard K., Wally R., Dave G., Bill M., Bud G.

GUESTS: Hunt Blair, Butch Alexander, David Marvin, Ed French, Mike Stafford

The meeting of the Selectboard opened at 5:30pm. Steve Jeffries from VLCT was present to discuss recruitment of a Town Administrator. Lee made the motion seconded by Steve to enter into an agreement with VLCT for their assistance in search of a Town Administrator not to exceed \$2,500 advertising plus expenses (approximately \$5000 total). Passed. Advertising publications and deadline dates were discussed.

HIGHWAY REPORT:

Sweeping in the Village is almost complete with the exception of the parking lots. Paint has been ordered. Gravel has been removed from the grass at the Oxbow. Louis Ferris contacted Jean Grassetto requesting her to communicate with the Highway Dept. regarding the sidewalk near the new Post Office. The sidewalk has settled and there have been complaints from the Post Office. Louis would like the Town to repair the brick and he will pay for it. The Board stated Louis needs to hire a contractor (not the Town) to complete the work. A letter will be sent to Louis stating this information, along with a copy of the previous agreement – communication will remain with Louis rather than through Jean Grassetto to avoid any conflicts. The Town will chloride on 5/23/00. The dump truck has been sold. No bids have been received for the cab & chassey for the old water truck – Bill will send to salvage. The crew replaced some culverts due to flooding and did some grading.

POLICE:

Calls have increased – about 192 total – no transports. The dept. is busy working on cases. Ryan B. will be going to the Academy to attend a death investigation certification course. Richard has been communicating with TCD (cruiser division) to work on a trade-in of a cruiser for mid to late July. Richard attended a DRB meeting to voice his concerns for public safety if a live entertainment permit for Adams Apple Café was granted. The Board will invite Mr. Cornblatt to the next meeting to discuss concerns.

FIRE:

The dept. has been very busy lately including 2 structure fires. The dept. would like to thank the Board for recognizing Bill McGee at his retirement party. A couple of radios were damaged in the structure fire – they will need to be repaired, as there are no spares. Wally submitted a list of proposed expenditures. The Board requested he wait until the next meeting before granting approval. Lee has a concern of Brooks closing off 1 exit – this has been an issue in the past – Wally will follow up on issue.

GUESTS:

Hunt Blair along with Butch Alexander, David Marvin and Ed French were present to discuss tax abatement/exemption for Copley Health System's new building. Hunt gave an overview of the project and benefits to the community. They will put together a petition and submit to the Town – they would request a Special Town Meeting. They are requesting 100% tax relief – approximately \$96,000 per year. Previous abatements have never been for 100% and are normally only for a limited period of time. The Board will schedule an executive session to discuss in more detail. The Board will schedule a meeting with Paul Gillis to discuss Copley Health Systems abatement issues before the scheduled executive session.

OLD BUSINESS:

A letter received from the State concurred previous action towards Fire Warden was appropriate. Jim made the motion seconded by Brian to accept D. DeGregario's application and recommend he be appointed as new Fire Warden for the remaining 4-year term. Passed. His application will be sent to the State. It looks favorable that Susan Bartlett has been able to get \$50,000 to spend on a tower study as discussed at a previous Sheriff's advisory meeting – assumption is there will be a follow-up meeting soon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Lee made the motion seconded by Jim to approve minutes of the regular meeting held on 5/01/00 and the special meeting held on 5/08/00. Passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Morristown Water Corporation requested tax abatement on their property. Brian made the motion seconded by Lee to honor the request to exempt MWC from taxes. Discussion stated facts that similar organizations pay taxes. Motion opposed unanimously. Mike Stafford requested the Town pay a \$20 membership fee for Rec Trails Committee to belong to VT Trails & Greenways Council. Brian made the motion seconded by Lee to authorize payment of the \$20 membership fee. Passed. DA, SL – opposed. The Pleasant View Cemetery Association will have a meeting in the conference room on 5/31 at 7:00pm. A bill was received in the amount of \$440 for a property line dispute – this is the 2nd time a fee will be paid to settle the same dispute. The Board will send a letter to the Zoning Administrator and the DRB stating no additional funds will be paid for this dispute. It was stated the cost of fuel oil on the bills received should be checked. A draft of proposed changes in zoning by-laws was received. The Board will request all changes be printed in italics to simplify reading of the changes.

GENERAL FUND:

Lee made the motion seconded by Steve to approve payments of warrant #00-20 in the amount of \$23,849.46 and warrant #00-19 in the amount of \$28,074.97. Passed. Steve made the motion seconded by Lee to approve payment of payroll warrant for pay period ending 5/6/00 in the amount of \$22,484.09. Passed.

OTHER FUNDS:

Lee made the motion seconded by Brian to approve payment of Morristown Recreation Council warrant #00-06 in the amount of \$33.26. Passed.

Lee made the motion seconded by Jim to adjourn the meeting of the Selectboard at 8:55pm. Passed.

Lynn Miller, Scribe
Minutes filed 5/16/00

Brian Greenia, Chair
Minutes not approved