

TOWN OF WOODFORD, VT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 15, 2015, Draft

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ryan Thurber, Steve Wright, Mike Charette

ALSO PRESENT: Ed Shea, Betty Charette, Holly O'Brian, George O'Brian, Jim Henderson, Gail Rutkowski (treasurer), Susan Wright, (clerk).

Ryan opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ryan, 2nd by Mike to approve minutes for the March select board meeting. Discussion followed as to the question about bridge work being done by the state unknown by the town. Ryan informed the board that he went to the AOT to discuss this bridge project. The bridge being worked on is on RT 9 by Notch Road. This work is a result from Irene and related to river stabilization. Also discussed were the bridge and road standards currently being proposed for towns to adopt as part of the flood resilience actions to secure more state aid in the event of another declared disaster. It was stated that currently this has been adopted by the majority of towns in Vt. However, it is up to each town to decide whether or not to adopt. The board will continue to look at this option. All in favor, Motion Carried,

2. General Public

Ryan requested that any questions, comments or concerns related to the flood resilience will be addressed later in the meeting designated specifically for this topic. There were no other questions or comments from the general public.

3. Treasurer's Report

Gail presented balances for each account. She expressed a concern that the Highway fund states that \$20,000 needs to be replaced according to the program. She is unsure as to what and from where the replacement needs to happen. Ryan explained that the highway fund filters everything that the State sends including school funds. He advised her to contact NEMRC and the State to hopefully explain this deficit in the highway fund. Gail also stated that the reappraisal CD currently has \$24,000. She has another \$4400 to add to it but received it too late to put into this CD. This money is currently in the highway fund. Ryan explained that the town receives \$4400/yr for reappraisals. The last reappraisal done was a statistical appraisal. At some point the state will mandate a full appraisal and this money will be used for that. The town listers should be aware of all funds and expenses regarding this and anything else connected to this dept just as all people in positions should have knowledge of funds for their particular dept.

Gail presented the warrants for April (all attached)

General fund # TX-3 for \$56,266.

General fund 01 #AP-3 for \$5401.92

Payroll # PR-3 for \$6083.17. Gail noted that the salaries were adjusted according to the new approved budget for both increases and decreases.

Motion by Ryan, 2nd by Mike to approve the warrants as presented. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Gail presented the unpaid bills for April.

Upon review of the unpaid bills there was a concern about 2 propane deliveries for 1 month for a total of \$1300.00. Also discussed was a payment for \$100.00 for staples. Gail explained that this was a payment towards the balance. The board agreed that each month the entire balance should be paid in full every month.

Motion by Ryan, 2nd by Mike to approve the unpaid bills as presented for \$3359.50 (attached). All in favor, Motion Carried.

Motion by Ryan, 2nd by Mike to reopen the warrants. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Motion by Ryan, 2nd by Mike to approve the warrant for the highway fund for \$5253.50 as presented (attached). All in favor, Motion Carried.

4. Flood Resilience in Woodford- Presentation by Jim Henderson from BCRC

Jim Henderson from BCRC presented the new proposed Fema flood insurance rate maps (NFIP) required to be adopted along with a flood resilience element in the town plan by Dec 2015. . He explained that in order for the town to remain in the flood insurance program the town must adopt the new maps and new flood regulations that meet State requirements. These actions will make the town eligible for 75% federal public assistance after a federally declared disaster. The State will contribute an additional 7.5% towards the cost through the Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF). If the town takes specific steps to reduce flood damage then the State will increase contribution from 12.5% or 17.5%. depending on what actions are taken. These additional steps for the Town of Woodford is to adopt 2014 Road and Bridge Standards and a local Emergency Operation Plan for 12.5% and for 17.5% to adopt a River Corridor Bylaw (Fluvial erosion hazard zones). There are currently no structures in the Flood Hazard zones but are 69 structures in the river corridor area. Depending on what the Town decides to adopt will affect current landowners. The Town could decide to adopt the model 5 regulations the State has proposed that basically does not permit any development in the flood hazard areas. It is unknown how many landowners this would effect .Another option is to adopt model 4 which restricts development and improvements on those lots currently in the river corridor area which has 69 existing structures. If adopted this would restrict improvements of existing homes and new building along with more requirements for construction. This includes most of the Woodford Hollow area. Another option is to review the current regulation and attempt to review, update and submit to the State for approval. Jim clarified that the Town has to adopt the 100 year flood map but not the river corridor map. Chris Taft from AOT will be attending the next select board meeting to answer questions concerning the adoption of the Road and Bridge Standards and what it means to Woodford.

Ryan commented that he had received a suggestion from a Fema personal that he had remained in contact with since Irene. The suggestion was the Town should request from Fema exactly what can be expected if a certain scenario happens. This would enable the town's people to make better decisions. It was stated that after Irene Fema had stated that if you received federal aid then you must carry flood insurance in order to receive funds in case another event happens. It was concluded that there is still confusion about the pros and cons of carrying flood insurance.

The select board stated that they are in support of adopting the NFIP and are ready to move forward with doing what is necessary to meet the minimum requirements to ensure Woodford residents are eligible to purchase flood insurance. The Planning Commission will be discussing this issue in future meetings as they have

in past meetings since this is their responsibility. It was noted that it is very disappointing, given the amount of people these regulations could affect, that more participation wasn't happening to ensure the Planning Commission has as much feed back as possible to make a responsible decision.

5. Swip- 1st Hearing on Ordinance Proposal

Mike explained the SWIP Ordinance and how it affects the town. As per Act 148 every town in the state has to meet certain requirements. Woodford is joining 12 other towns in Bennington County to form an alliance. The alliance contact is developed so that all towns have at least one vote. In order to meet Act 148 requirements three things have to be completed:

- 1. Adoption of Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance Inter local Contract by all 13 towns*
- 2. Develop forms for registration. Each waste hauler must register in each town they do business in.*
- 3. Establish a pay as you throw ordinance*

The select board were in agreement to support the Benn County Solid Waste Alliance Inter Local Contract along with the Town of Woodford Pay as you Throw Ordinance (attached).

6. Board of Civil Authority- Policies and Procedures

Ryan stated that based on discussions from last month's meeting the Town Clerk was invited to attend tonight's meeting. His failure to attend is a violation of the Town Charter. There are many questions being asked but no answers are available. A concern was brought up that there was no one from the BCA present so their current procedures could be explained. The concern pertains to the correct way to count votes. There are precise step by step procedures. For example: One election official reads out the votes on each ballot while the other official marks the tally sheet. After counting the set, the pair of officials should review the tally sheet to see that they have correctly counted the ballots. If counts are off for a race, the pair may review the ballots for that race to find the error. With this procedure the town should not have had tally sheets that did not agree. It would be beneficial if the BCA compared the procedure they are using to the regulations.

7. Appointment of Vacant Positions

Ryan read letters of intent from both Kathy Slee and Ginny Ulitch become auditors (attached).

Motion by Steve, 2nd by Mike to appoint Kathy and Ginny as auditors. Discussion followed as to a possible hostile environment the new appointees may experience as others in the past have experienced. A suggestion was made that perhaps they could meet with Gail when she's in the office. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Ryan stated that there were still other vacant positions to be filled.

8. Other Business

1. Ryan informed the public that he had been sworn in by the Bennington town Clerk (attached). He had received a letter (attached) from Ron Higgins stating this requirement along with other comments. Due to the restricted hours of the town clerk and Ryan's work and family commitments, he elected to fulfill the requirement with another town clerk.

2. A meeting was held by GMNF (Green Mtn National Forest) to discuss the closing of fire road 278 off Harbour Rd. The board was not informed about this meeting but was told by an outside person. Ryan stated that everyone is working hard to keep all roads and trails open. GMNF wishes to close the road based on

maintenance issues. Fortunately he was able to attend and meet the new district ranger learn about GMNF' s intent on closing the road.

3. Ryan acknowledged a letter received by Mellisa Hayden from Rutland Vt. He stated that he will not waste the time to respond to this letter.

Motion by Ryan to adjourn, 2nd by Mike All in favor, Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm - NEXT MEETING MAY 20, 2015 at 7 pm.

Susan Wright - Clerk