

TOWN OF WOODFORD, VT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
December 18, 2013 Unapproved
WOODFORD TOWN HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ryan Thurber, Mike Charette, Steve Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Avis Hurley, Jim Horrigan, Ed Shea, Gene Irons, Tiffany Tobin, Louis Tobin Susan Wright, (clerk).

Motion to call the meeting to order by Ryan, 2nd by Mike All in favor Motion carried.

1. GENERAL PUBLIC

Questions were asked as to the status of the Simon property since the Dec 1st deadline has come and gone. Ryan stated that he was under the impression that the deadline was Jan 1, 2014 deadline and no further action had take place. Conversations with Peter Lawrence, the attorney, have been ongoing to try to expedite any potential sale. Ryan also noted that the state will not do anything with the property so it is up to the town as to whether or not the town and taxpayers will pay to have it cleaned up and a lien put on the property. Discussion followed as to the pros and cons to having the property cleaned up prior to a sale or to have new owners be responsible for the cleanup. These questions are being discussed by the lawyers of the Simon property and the Town. The state has determined that the property does not have significant hazards and therefore not eligible to be DEC project. The Town however, has put the clean up out to bid through HNB Construction and TAM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Ryan, second by Mike to approve the November minutes. All in Favor, Motion Carried.

3. TREASURES REPORT

Jim reported that he felt the town was in good shape as to the budget and so far did not spend what was budgeted. He also reported that the Town was expecting \$30,000 from the PILOT program but actually received \$60,000.

Ryan asked the board if they had any questions or concerns about the budget process. There was concern about the computer program and how revenues, expenses, income and outcome for certain areas are reflected especially concerning the Sheriff's dept. Ryan stated that he had asked Ron to attend the meetings but as of yet has not attended. Mike stated the special budget meeting needed to be scheduled. All were in agreement and a meeting was set for Thursday Jan 16, 2013 at 6pm. This would also be a good time to have NEMRC present to answer any concerns or questions on the program. Ryan asked Jim if he had the actual budget program. Jim stated that he was working on it and that he would have to ask Ron for assistance with it. Ryan voiced a deep concern that Jim was not getting someone other than Ron to help him with this and perhaps he should look into hiring NEMRC to come in and work with him on this program.

A. WARRANTS

MOTION made by Ryan seconded by Mike to approve General Fund-11 for \$44,227.11, 2nd by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.

MOTION by Ryan to approve Payroll-11 for \$907.54, 2nd by Mike. All in favor, motion carried.

MOTION by Ryan to approve HWY -11 \$597.00, 2nd by Mike. Discussion followed as to whether this account was the one the state utilizes. Jim stated that state aid comes through this account and is the only account the state has access to He then transfers the money to the proper account. All in favor, Motion carried.

B. UNPAID BILLS

Jim stated that the Sheriff's Dept claims that a bill for \$1425 was not paid. Jim will meet with them and compare their records to the Town's. This amount is not included in the total of unpaid bills.

Ryan explained that the 2 Levine appraisals for \$425 are for the 2 property buyouts from Fema. This money is also eligible for reimbursement from the State.

The board will need to decide whether to send the state bills as they receive them or send everything together once it has been completed.

MOTION made by Ryan to approve \$6240.82 for unpaid bills. This figure includes \$1425 for Sheriff's Dept. 2nd by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Jim updated the board on the wealth mgmt meeting being proposed. He has talked to TD Ameritrade. Wealth Mgmt wants \$4500/yr to manage the Town's money. TD Ameritrade will not charge unless we do transactions. Transfer can be done at no cost.

Jim also stated that all a checking accounts have been reconciled and are in balance except for the delinquent tax collector's account. He has not seen anything on this account as of yet.

4. BUDGET WORKSHOP

The meeting set for Thurs Jan 16, 2014 was again discussed and agreed upon as the meeting for budget planning. This meeting will be warned as such as a special meeting. Ryan asked if anyone had any issues with using the same printing company but no objections were stated. Jim stated that appropriations have been arriving and have been placed in a file to be brought to the budget meeting.

Jim informed the board that BCRC is claiming that they have not received all of the money appropriated and are still owed \$53. Ed agreed to find out why there is a difference but should be paid immediately. Ryan explained that the board probably did not receive the correct information when planning the budget and that is why there is a difference.

MOTION made by Ryan to pay BCRC \$53, second by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.

5. AUDIT UPDATE

Ryan stated that at the last meeting Steve Love had a list of documentation and information needed to complete the audit. Jim confirmed that everything he asked for has been submitted to him.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Jim requested that Bill Blotzow be publicly thanked for all the help given in registering the SAM number with Fema. It was a very complicated process and

would not have been possible without his help. Ryan reminded Jim that he is now the authorized person to deal with all Fema moneys.

B. Jim reminded the board that \$4000 had been budgeted for Treasurer training. As of today, none of that money has been spent. He presented to the board a request to pay Ron Higgins \$3000 for all the help he has given to him. Ron has been a great help to him in learning the process and an invaluable tool. NEMRC will come in and train at a price of \$1000 a day. Ryan responded that, as stated previously, he would prefer that Jim go in another direction and seek help. NEMRC would be the best place to start since they designed the program. It's important to keep Ron out of the financial part of the Town's business. All board members were in agreement that they would be more comfortable if there was a time sheet to support this request. Everyone else is required to submit a time sheet in order to be paid for work done. Jim re-iterated that Ron had been extremely helpful during this learning process. He is not requesting further assistance just for what he has already done and would like to utilize that part of the budget for that reason. Ryan stated that his concern is that he is willing to help when it comes to finances but not with other needs of the Town or with other people needing help. Mike stated that he felt as though if the Town paid this amount then the Town should have full access to the budget program written by NMRC All programs and assets belong to the people of the Town of Woodford and ca not continue to be held hostage and not use the Town's assets. Mike asked Jim if he had full access to the budget program and tax rate. Jim responded that he does not have that yet but has no need for it yet. Ron has never refused him anything he has requested. Steve asked Jim how much more assistance is he going to need before he is comfortable with his responsibilities. Jim stated he was 80% there and is not planning on further assistance. The board was in agreement that moving forward a time sheet will be necessary as this is the procedure the Town has set in place and must be followed. Discussion followed as to how this dollar figure was arrived at.

Motion made by Steve to pay Ron Higgins \$3366 for 330 hrs at \$10.20 hr. for acting as Jim's assistant and assisting him with training in the treasurer's job as recommended by Jim, second by Mike. All in favor with reservations from Ryan. Motion Carried. Ryan stated that he is not personally in favor of this at all and objects with Ron still being involved with any part of the financials.

C. Avis expressed a concern recently brought to the school board's attention that may affect the select board at some point. During the last storm the bus company refused to take those students living on the mountain home. The bus driver

dropped them off at the trailer park. These students were forced to walk on the dangerous road in order to get home. This is a major safety concern for all and the principal is already addressing this issue.

D. Jim informed the public that \$680 had been collected from people within the town. Gift cards will be purchased and distributed to those families in need. Sandy Foster will be distributing them and only she will know who receives them.

MOTION made by Ryan, second by Mike to adjourn meeting. All in favor, Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN WILL BE JANUARY 15, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

Susan Wright, clerk