

TOWN OF WOODFORD, VT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
February 19, 2014 Unapproved

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ryan Thurber and Steve Wright. Absent: Mike Charette

ALSO PRESENT: Avis Hurley, Jim Horrigan, Ed Shea, Tiffany Tobin, Louis Tobin, John Dovitski, George Davis, Diane Davis, Jean Irons, Tom Slee, Catherine Slee, Derek Carson (Benn Banner), Karen Horrigan, Jim Horrigan (treasurer), Susan Wright, (clerk).

Motion to call the meeting to order by Ryan, 2nd by Steve. All in favor Motion Carried.

1. GENERAL PUBLIC

Ed Shea requested the board to approve the fee for attendance for two workshops: ANR and VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development for Flood Resilience Living W/River and part 2 Plan Ahead living W/River. Also the fee to attend VLCT.

Motion made by Ryan to approve Ed's request for a total of \$85. 2nd by Steve, All in favor, Motion Carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ryan read the minutes for the Special budget meeting for January 16th. He then asked for any questions on the January 15th regular meeting.

MOTION made by Ryan to approve both minutes as written, second by Steve. All in Favor, Motion Carried.

3. TREASURE'S REPORT

A. WARRANTS

Jim explained that 2 items did not come through on the sheet for December's warrants and that is why the warrants did not balance.

MOTION by Ryan to approve December's warrants as presented for \$17,407.80 due to clarification, 2nd by Steve. All in favor, Motion Carried.

The warrants for January were presented by Jim.

MOTION by Ryan to approve Payroll (PR1) for \$906.9, 2nd by Steve. All in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Ryan to approve warrants for General Fund (GF1) for \$10,043.74 as presented, 2nd by Steve, All in favor, Motion Carried.

MOTION by Ryan to approve warrants for Highway Fund for \$7756.07 as presented, 2nd by Steve. All in favor, Motion Carried.

B. UNPAID BILLS

MOTION by Ryan to approve all unpaid bills as presented for \$5554.81, 2nd by Steve. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Ryan complimented Jim on the new format and stated that it was much better than the old one.

4. TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS MEETING

Several discussions at previous meetings have occurred concerning the management of the Woodford Reserve Fund. Jim explained the current charges on this account and reviewed options from other banks. Ryan asked whether there was a way to meet with the different banks so they could each explain their programs. Jim answered that representatives from these banks are a distance away and would not be possible. Ryan stated that a meeting for the Trustees of Public Funds would have to be held in order to make any changes. A meeting was set for March 19, 2014 at 7pm for the Trustees of Public Funds to discuss this concern.

5. ROAD SIGN REQUEST

The town currently has only one road sign in compliance. It is necessary that the Town get all signs into compliance.

MOTION by Ryan to upgrade the Town of Woodford's road signs to meet compliance requirements, 2nd by Steve. All in favor, Motion Carried.

6. HMGP 404 buyout update

Ryan explained that the Town is in the final stages of this program. The Town attorney is working with the state representatives to establish a closing date for these 2 properties. As of today no date has been set.

7. APPOINTMENT OF VACANT POSITIONS

Ryan stated that the Town's vacant positions have been advertized but none of them have been filled. Hopefully at Town Meeting some of them can be filled.

8. SIMON PROPERTY AND CLEAN UP STATUS

Ryan informed everyone that Peter Lawrence has been notified by the Town's attorney that he has to clean up the property. If it's not done then the Town will do it and then proceed with placing a lien on the property. Ryan read the letter sent to Peter Lawrence by Jason Morrissey(attached). Jim stated that the only problem with that is the estate has no money. Ed suggested that perhaps in the future if this should occur again that the municipality and WLE both enforce their bylaws. Ryan asked Jim if the Town had enough money to pay for this clean up. Jim responded not really since the town has \$154,000 from the last 2 year's delinquent taxes and the school has not been paid yet for the amount of \$74,000. The delinquent taxes have created a shortfall. Ryan suggested that the delinquent tax collector be asked to attend the next meeting. He did have a conversation with James Kinney which resulted in James request to utilize Kevin O'Toole again to proceed with tax sales since this process cannot happen without board approval.

MOTION by Ryan to hire Kevin O'Toole to conduct the delinquent tax sales as requested by the delinquent tax collector, 2nd by Steve. All in favor, Motion Carried

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Jim presented a letter of resignation as the Town's Treasurer to Ryan effective February 28, 2014 and also read the letter to the public (attached). Ryan stated that he was taken aback by Jim's personal accusations for the reason for his resignation. He explained that it is his job to ask questions and get answers for information necessary to run the Town. Ryan asked Jim if he could hold off his resignation until the March meeting to get all the financial information together. Jim agreed to do that.

More discussion followed as to why Jim's resignation came about. Jim accused both Steve and Ryan of being disrespectful to him and that they continuously attack Ron. He also stated that both he and Ron felt like Ryan was micro managing. Steve stated that he felt Jim was incorrect. Several people in the town continuously have run into road blocks that keeps them from getting a job done. The select board is only trying to run the town the way it's supposed to be run.

Avis asked the board if it was their plan to embarrass Jim at the Town meeting as she has seen them do this before. Both Steve and Ryan found this statement very offensive. Ryan made it clear that he has nothing but respect for Jim Horrigan and all he has done in the Treasurer's position.

MOTION made by Ryan to adjourn meeting, 2nd by Steve. All in favor, Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN WILL BE MARCH 19, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

Susan Wright- Clerk