

Town of Woodford, VT
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
January 9, 2013-DRAFT

Member's Present: Ryan Thurber, Mike Charette, and Steve Wright

Also present: Betty Charette, Jim Horrigan, Ed Shea, Cathy Slee, Thomas Slee, Ron Higgins, and John Dovitski

Ryan made a motion; Mike seconded, to open the Select Board's Charter Public Hearing/Budget Work Session meeting at 7:00. All in favor, motion carried.

CHARTER: 1st public hearing

Ryan reported to the Town members present that the notice for the process of the Town Charter was posted in 5 places in the Town of Woodford and ran in the Bennington Banner, and that he would inform the public as the date of the second hearing once he spoke to the attorney assisting with the Charter. Ryan asked if there were any public comments on the Charter. There were no comments made on the Charter.

BUDGET:

Ryan asked the public to refrain from speaking to one at a time so the Board and Treasurer may move at a steady pace through the budget. There will be time for all public comments and recommendations to be heard during the process. Ed asked the Board to please make sure that they have a line item for the enforcement of zoning By-Laws. Ryan asked if there were any other considerations the public would like to see if the budget. There were none.

Highway: Ryan no objection to leaving the highway at \$30,000. Steve it is the same number used for at least 6 years. All were in favor of keeping the \$30,000 highway fund.

Ryan expressed that he would like to see the budget kept as level funded as possible. Steve expressed that he likes the numbers used in 2012 and believed the Town could run on the same numbers. Ron expressed that there was only one line item that went over and that was Board of Civil Authority, and that was due to abatements and elections this year. Steve expressed that the Treasures pay should stay the same as 2012. Ryan stated that he needed to know if there were going to be items that were above and beyond the normal duties. Mike stated that he wanted to see the pay the same as 2012. The number for pay for the Treasurer will stay at \$10,000, per Ryan and will be offset on page 4 by independent work. Ryan under auditors, independent audit will come close to 2012 budgeted number. Mike expressed that if the Town is going to continue with an outside audit then the line item should stay the same. Ron stated that a bill came in today for the services, but he has not opened the letter yet. Ron also indicated that the audit was pretty much done, and went quicker than anticipated. Ryan asked if the amount should be kept at \$8000. Mike stated yes it should.

Lister: Leave the same.

Delinquent Tax Collector: Ron \$188 was for new checks and deposit slips. Steve would like clarification on variance, as he understands the funds are collected out of the delinquent taxes paid, but wants to make

sure that is understandable to everyone who looks at the budget. Ron will clarify on budget. Ron indicated to the Board that an 8% penalty is collected, and that penalty is per statute. The Board agreed to leave the supply figure the same. Ron expressed that James has not reconciled the books in over a year, but that he has taken the cash from the account.

Town Clerk: Mike keep the same as 2012 numbers. Steve agreed as some work falls under independent work.

Zoning/ZBA/Administrator: Ryan expressed that this is where Ed would like to see something for enforcement of zoning. Ron expressed that there is \$2000 under legal that is for zoning that could be used for enforcement. Ryan asked if it was possible to put legal zoning under this section. Ron indicated yes and will do so.

Town Hall Expenses: Ron expressed to the Board that the propane company indicates a decrease of cost, and that the cost for the propane should be decreased to \$6000. Ron also indicated that the workers compensation went down slightly. Steve suggested making it \$4600 in case of an increase. Ron expressed that there was going to be some repairs to the building and a handicapped walk way installed. There will be no change in the line items. Ryan questioned act 60 expenditures. Ron indicated it was for listers education. Board asked for it to be removed.

E911: Ryan the State mandates that all properties have an E911 address, so new properties have to have an E911 address. Ron there is a property on Harbor Road that does not have an E911 address, and the Lyons properties will need them as well. Board stated leave as is.

Constables: Ryan names can be changed. Board stated leave as is.

Health: Board stated leave as is.

Donations & Appropriations: Ron indicated that most of them are the same. Ryan asked if anything was received from the fire department. Ron indicated no, nothing yet.

Town of Bennington Landfill: Ryan should not be an appropriation, as it is an invoice and we must be a member of a solid waste treatment. Ryan indicated that it should be a line item, not voted on at Town Meeting.

Independent Work: Ryan keep line item with an even \$5000 as more items may arise next year. Steve asked to keep it the same as 2012. Ryan put as \$4700.00.

Interest: Ryan expressed that the Board needs to take a good look at this as the board has no idea if going to get any more funds from FEMA. Ryan expressed that there was an extension until September. Ryan expressed that a ballot article will be needed for the voters to vote on withdrawing funds from the TD account to payoff the line of credit. Ron expressed that the line of credit is collecting interest daily that will need to be paid off as well. Ryan expressed that there are three scenarios that can play out (1) Fema pays (2) Voters say use funds (3) Keep as cushion for remaining work. Ryan asked to have the planning grant dressed up to better explain it is not a deficit.

Mike asked that Ron please provide the Board with revenue projections. Ron stated he will do so.

Ryan asked Ron what was the best way to get the updated changes to the budget. Ron indicated that he will make the changes tomorrow. The changes were reviewed and all agreed.

Ryan asked Ron since the Town runs on a January 1 to December 31 fiscal year, how the funds work until March voting. Ron indicated that bills are paid as always.

Betty asked where the funds come from for the Town to pay the WLE dues on the property that it owns from the tax sale. Ryan expressed that the Town only pays those dues not taxes.

Jim Horrigan asked if the annual report was going to be completed by the same company, as some people did not get one last year. Mike expressed that the issue will be corrected this year.

Ron brought to the Boards attention that the Woodford Mall is requesting liquor & Cigarette license as there is a new person leasing the property. Ryan indicated that the property did sell at tax sale. Ron indicated that the owner still has time to redeem the property from the purchaser. Ryan then expressed that the property taxes on the property were not paid current, and that before a license for liquor and cigarettes can be granted the taxes will need to be paid in full with all delinquencies. All Board members agreed on this matter.

Ryan asked how the book will work this year. Ron stated that he does not care. Ryan then asked Ron if he will be preparing the warnings for the Town Meeting. Ron indicated yes he would. Ryan also asked Ron if he would complete the ballot items, Ron indicated that he would. Ryan then asked what day do you need the charter for warning. Ron indicated January 24th.

Ryan made a motion; Mike seconded, to close the meeting at 8:20. All in favor, motion carried.

Sincerely,

Holly O'Brien