

**TOWN OF WOODFORD, VT**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

*November 21, 2013- Draft*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** *Ryan Thurber, Mike Charette, Steve Wright*

**ALSO PRESENT:** *Steve Love (Love, Cody & Co.), Scott Daniels(Woodford Snobusters), Mark Tilley, Doug Divis, Derek Carson (Benn Banner), Louis Tobin, Tiffany Tobin, Ed Shea, Diane Davis, George Davis, Rainel Davis, George Davis Jr, Linda Dovitski, John Dovitski, Avis Hurley, Chuck Suss, Jim Horrigan (treasurer), Susan Wright, (clerk)*

*Ryan motioned to call the meeting to order at 7:00pm, second by Mike, All in favor, Motion Carried.*

*Ryan stated that the meeting would be recorded.*

## **1. TOWN AUDIT**

*Ryan turned the meeting over to Steve Love to answer any questions concerning the 2011 audit for the Town currently being conducted. Steve explained that the process has been delayed for various reasons on both sides. Things should be able to be wrapped up fairly quickly by next week. Ryan asked the public if they had any question for the auditor.*

*Q: If your firm does this next year would it be easier and quicker?*

*A: Absolutely. All the background information would be all set and any procedure changes necessary would be in place.*

*Q: It seems as though you have been in and out of the office and asking repeat questions from the Town Clerk and Treasurer. Are you not getting the right information?*

*A: An incorrect email was being used until it was corrected. We also had to catch up with everyone's schedule, had gathered information but then discovered we didn't have everything. Delays were caused by both sides.*

*Ryan stated that the town did not have any auditors at this time and wanted to be comfortable as budget time approached. Mr. Love responded that his firm does not do what town auditors would do. Mr. Love left a list of remaining information needed and will meet with the treasurer on Fri.*

## **2. GENERAL PUBLIC**

*No Discussion from the public audience.*

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Ryan to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. Discussion followed to correct page 3 section 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence to be deleted since Ryan had never provided Ron a list of vacant positions. Also to delete the word had in the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence. All in favor, Motion Carried.*

*Motion by Ryan to close the select board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike, All in favor, Motion Carried.*

*Motion by Ryan to open the warned public meeting for the proposed bylaw for enforcement and penalties, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.*

## **4. Town Bylaw/Ordinance for Zoning Enforcement**

*Ryan asked if someone would like to explain the proposed bylaw. Ed explained that Woodford is one of few towns in Vt that does not have penalties in place for zoning violations. Ed read the Zoning Administrator's responsibility in regards to enforcing violation of zoning bylaws. If a ZA sees a violation then he is mandated to enforce the penalty. Ryan asked if there was any opposition to this bylaw. Jim H stated he was definitely in support of this but that it was previously discussed that the ZA could be given 25% of penalties collected. There was a concern that this may not be the best way to compensate the additional work. Perhaps the best way would be for the select board to review the salary for the ZA in their budget meeting. Ed stated that in the future the ZA may be having even more work and would like to see the town change from issuing certificate of compliance verses certificates of occupancy. Both Steve and Mike responded that this sounds more like code enforcement than zoning enforcement. Ryan stated that the current structures prior to this bylaw were "grandfathered in". The response was that this*

*was not indeed the fact, the ZA has already been working with violators and it should be at his discretion who he enforces the penalties on. Motion by Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike to approve the the enforcement bylaw as presented. All in favor, Motion Carried.*

*Motion by Ryan to adjourn the public hearing, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.*

*Motion by Ryan to re-open the regular select board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.*

## **5. STAGE COACH TRAIL**

*Scott Daniels-Trail master and Mark Tilley- President from Woodford Snobusters, requested permission from the board to make improvements to the snowmobile trail by Capella's camp. They also requested on behalf of the snowbusters, a donation from the Town to help with the expenses. These repairs would benefit the Town and improve the safety of the trail riders. The landowner has been contacted and is in favor of the project as long as he is notified when the project begins. Ryan stated that he had done a site visit and requested that the landowner be notified given the close proximity to his land. He also stated that this project in no way gives control of the "Stage Coach Trail" to the snobusters, the control remains to the Town. Steve asked Ryan if he would be willing to oversee the project to which Ryan agreed. Discussion for a \$700 donation to help in material costs followed. Steve stated that he had no problem with the donation as long it was understood that control of the trail is not compromised, the Town will still have jurisdiction over the trail. All were in agreement. Motion by Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. Discussion followed as to whether or not National Forest would be involved. The answer was no. All in favor, Motion Carried.*

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

*A. Unpaid Bills: Jim brought to the board's attention that the Sheriff's Dept is not on budget. Discussion followed as to how expenses and revenue for the Sheriff's dept is charging and the revenues received from tickets written. To date the Town has spent \$18,000 and received \$8000 in revenue making the Town's expense at \$10,000. The taxpayers approved a total of \$11,000 to be spent. There is still 1 month before the end of the fiscal and \$1000 left to spend to remain within budget. Ryan explained that the Town is at the point to re-negotiate a new*

contract. The Town currently does not have a signed contract with the Sheriff's Dept. for 2013. Jim stated that he has asked for accountability from the dept but was told it would cost extra for that service. Ryan responded that the Town is not in this for an investment. The population seems to be pleased with coverage and service. This may have to become a straight expense item. Steve stated that for now we should not pay the 2 bills submitted and meet with the Sheriff's dept for get some answers for Jim's questions. Motion by Steve not to pay the 2 Sheriff's dept bills until the board meets with them, but pay the rest as presented for a total of \$4862.11, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.

B. Warrants: Motion by Ryan to approve the warrant GF-10 for \$2662.94, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Motion by Ryan to approve PR-10 for \$1086.67, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Motion by Ryan to approve TX-10 for \$362,558.36, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Motion by Ryan to approve DG-10 for \$66.94, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve. All in favor, Motion Carried.

## 7. BID FOR SIMON PROPERTY

Jason Morrissey is the attorney for the Town handling the clean up for the Simon property. He received notification from Peter Lawrence, attorney for the Simon estate. He had received an estimate from TAM Waste Mgmt for structure removal but the quote does not include permits for hazardous waste. The attorney advised the Town not to move forward with this until Dec 1. It was noted that the Tobin's had made an offer on the property including the cleanup of any hazardous waste but the offer was rejected by the estate. Ryan stated that the DEC has inspected 2 other properties and none present a problem.

## 8. IRENE FEMA BUYOUTS

Ryan informed those present that this project is at the stage where an attorney and an appraiser need to be obtained by the Town. After obtaining proposals from attorney's and appraisers, he has selected Jason Morrissey as the attorney. Mr. Morrissey was the only attorney willing to take this on as the others appear not interested. As per Fema, the attorney will do the work for both the buyer (Town of

Woodford) and the sellers (both property owners) and rewrite the deeds to include the new deed restrictions required by Fema.

After receiving bids from appraiser, Ryan stated that he selected Peter Levin and was very comfortable utilizing him. Diane Davis asked Ryan why he did not contact appraisers that had done Fema appraisals before such as Green Mountain Appraisers .Ryan stated that he had no particular reason but if the property owners are not comfortable with whom he chose then they had the option of hiring their own appraiser. He stated that in order for the town to receive Fema money for the buyout it has to go through the state, the Town and then to the property owners. If the owners don't like the bids then they can refuse to sign the agreement.

## **9. TOWN'S COMPUTER BUDGET PROGRAM**

Ryan suggested to Jim that it would be advantageous for him to become familiar with the budget program in advance since it is budget time.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Jim expressed his concern about the fact that TD Banknorth will be charging the Town of Woodford \$4400/yr to manage the Town's \$365,000 account. He noted that he had contacted another financial planner and suggested to the board that a meeting of the Board of Trustees be scheduled. Ryan suggested a meeting be scheduled for January along with other representatives of financial institutions.

Ed requested appropriations of funds for 1 member of the planning commission to be a member of the VT Planners Association for \$35/yr. There was no opposition to this request.

Motion made by Ryan to adjourn, second by Mike. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Next meeting Wed December 18, 2013 at 7:00pm.

Submitted by:

Susan Wright