

**SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020 at 6:00 PM  
MEETING ROOM – WILLEY BUILDING**

Those present: Selectboard: Fred Ducharme, Ruth Goodrich, Mike Hogan, John Cookson and Matthew Nally

Town: Betty Ritter, Michelle Leclerc

Other: Marcy Martin, Jen Miner, Steve Godin, Bill Wheeler, Sid Griggs, Terri Nunn, Aldo Nunn, Jack Daniels, Don Mitchell, Ellen Cairns, Larry Gochey, Paul Stecker, Stephen Hogan, Jim Goodrich, Maria Acchoine-Goodrich, Will Ameden, Sandy Pond, Brittany Butler, Jeff Haslett

1. The meeting was called to order 6:00 pm by Fred Ducharme.
2. Elect a Selectboard Chair – Mike nominated Fred, Matt 2<sup>nd</sup>. John nominated Ruth, Ruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ruth wants to do a paper ballot. Betty collected the ballots. Fred did receive the nomination.
3. Elect a Selectboard Vice-Chair – Matt nominated Ruth, John 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
4. Elect a Selectboard Clerk – Ruth nominate Mike, John 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
5. Adopt and use Roberts Rule of Order for Small Boards – Ruth 1<sup>st</sup>, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mike said the board is for the open meeting law. Even an email with three or more people is actually a meeting. On any emails you need to put information only. Agendas have to be clear. More information but not a paragraph.
6. Approve Agenda – Mike 1<sup>st</sup>, Betty has an addition The Washington County Sheriff's Dept. and Harry Hardware Den liquor license and AT&T modification. Ruth 1<sup>st</sup>, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
7. Approve Minutes from
  - a. Minutes form 2-25 Selectboard Meeting – Ruth 1<sup>st</sup>, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
  - b. Minutes from 2-27 Selectboard Meeting – Ruth 1<sup>st</sup>, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
  - c. Minutes from 2-27 Selectboard/CCIF Meeting – Ruth 1<sup>st</sup>, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
  - d. Minutes from Informational Hearing – Ruth 1<sup>st</sup>, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
8. Public Comment –
  1. Jack Daniels would like to speak about Article 15 this is not a petition but from a few with concern residents that Article 15 is in conflict with the CCIF plan in several ways. Not amending or changing of the plan. The vote is null and void. There is a legal issue and you need to address it with the Town Attorney. One of the provisions that the approved plan does not allow to pay funds for operating costs for the school and the town. It cannot be used to reduce the tax rate. Give a close outcome of the vote that the Selectboard would like to review the vote. Jack asked the board to look at it and get an opinion from the Town attorney. Mike if we were in violation of any plan then it would be in violation last year for the \$200,000 for the roof for the school. Jack disagrees with you because that was for infrastructure and it wasn't to reduce the budget. Mike said all the items are giving the authority of what to do with the money. He appreciates the points you have made. Jack said he is only telling the Selectboard because of legal consequences.
  2. Terri for years the road commissioner was \$10,000. Then when the road commissioner wanted to do it for free. Then he wanted to get paid for it, with uniforms, and insurance. Why do they need four people instead of three? Fred said they are reviewing to see if we really need a road commissioner. Ruth said we need to interview the candidates. Terri said doesn't the Town people get a vote to see if we should hire another person. Fred said it is the Selectboard to say when they need someone. John asked Fred if he could speak. Fred said sure. John stated Tommy didn't want to do the winter sidewalks so he was hired to do the sidewalks. Mike said the money if the money it is not spent then they will reduce the tax rate. Terri said that five people can't make these decisions but you need to bring this to a vote before the Town. Fred asked Terri to watch her tone because we trying to talk it out. Fred said to take the road position and figure out what we do. Just because the money was allocated doesn't mean we would spend that money.
  3. Steve asked if the election results are on line. Michelle said yes they are. Steve wanted to know about town meeting going back to the old ways. Fred said to change from Australian ballot you will need a petition. Ruth asked how many voted. Michelle said 536 voted. Betty said 100 people were at the Town Meeting and Michelle stated that we received 90 absentee ballots.

4. We are trying to get people to come to our budget and Selectboard meetings. We sometimes make mistakes. Sandy suggests we have a town meeting to go over each one of the major issues to review. Put on the agenda what the budgets you will be reviewing on the meeting. The Australian ballot issue is how there is so many things put together and make only one check on. If she wanted the parking lot and not the road she should have been able to have a choice. Maria was going to suggest that too but sometimes the meeting says budget. Ruth says we sometimes go thru the budget every time. Maria stated there was a lot of comments on the Special Appropriation do they come to the Selectboard to discuss what they would like. Fred said they don't but we are making it more user friendly to the budget meeting. Maria stated when growing up the owners were responsible for shoveling the sidewalks. Fred said the because of the age of some of those people living in the village are not able to shovel. We have never said anything about sidewalks. Jen has sat in on the budget meetings. The planning commission has reviewed what needs are for the buildings. By watching theses Selectboard members do the budget they painstakingly try to get the budget at the tax rate. Fred said we always try to get the tax rate as close to as last year. Larry thinks that there is a black top issue. The highway crew knows what they need. If purchasing a truck you would go together for a purchase. David Pike offered to help if needed. John said the trucks are going to last for at least the next three years. Larry said the trucks should last eight to ten years.
5. To Do List – Betty said no changes at this time. Sandy is wondering if they have given up on numbers from the Fire Dept. It is ongoing.
6. Review of Committees - reviewed and tabled the CCIF chair will be tabled until next time. Mike CCIF appoint a chair and another person and the school needs to appoint another. Ruth would also like to table that.
7. Corona Virus Update – Jen has the latest version. There is none in the state of Vermont. They do have some they are monitoring. The state has reached out to tap into the Federal Reserve stock pile. Daniel and Ruth have been looking into a lot of venues to purchase of supplies. The best info is to make sure you have your house in order for food and surprises. There is now on the website how to contact the Ambulance regarding questions. Ruth has found on the internet a reasonable rate for some ambulance. She did it out of pocket and will get billed out to the ambulance when needed. Jen said hand washing with hot soapy water. Terri said mask work against you. Ruth said they get moist and don't transfer air well. The mask will not fit tight with a beard. More was discussed on masks and going to the hospital and questions about what you will be asked and who you will call.
8. Water/Wastewater
  - a. Other Business – Ruth doesn't have anything new on water. Ruth would like to remind people that sump pumps are not supposed to be hooked up to the wastewater system. Aldo said there is water running out of the garage at Nettie Searles. Fred will go check this out. Bill said he has been doing a lot of brook fishing. What is the issue with running a pipe to the river? Ruth will discuss that with Bill.
9. Town Clerk's Office
  - a. Orders - done
  - b. Other business - Washington County Sheriff's Dept. rate will be increasing by \$.50. Mileage rate .625 remains the same. Mike 1<sup>st</sup>, Ruth 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
  - c. License for Harry's Hardware/Den for their 1<sup>st</sup> class liquor license and outside consumption. Mike are we aware of any violations. Matt is there any limitations on amount of people. Mike said is usually is roped out. Mike, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. motion passed
  - d. Certificate of Services from Downs, Rachlin & Martin are making modifications to the AT&T tower. Jim Goodrich they are going to 5G
10. Other Business:
  - a. Ruth stated that they a fuel meter should be installed at the town garage to know how much fuel is going out to the school, fire department, road crew and others. John said there are two pumps and he wanted to lock them up. Fred said they now shut the electricity off. They will be getting a card with \$5,000. One meter that the fuel is used by everyone. It gives you a time any time. John would like a security camera on it too. Ruth said would like a camera on the inside of the building also. Also, security on the interior of the building. Betty talked to VLCT and they will help with the cameras. John said the gate should be locked when there is no one is there. Ruth would like to get some quotes on the meter on the fuel. Mike said we need to find money for this. Ruth said unauthorized personal in the garage area getting together talking for half an hour or more. Ruth said the highway crew is getting paid \$25 to \$37 an hour. When

they are on the town's nickel, they need to be working. John has requested that also. Mike next meeting decide on the agenda on the fuel meter and cameras. Marcy are you going to start telling the guys to start locking the gate. Steve stated that an electronic gate would be beneficial. John said it is a good idea for a remote in each truck. Stephen Hogan wants to make sure the fire dept still have access. Michelle told the Selectboard members that they can't turn off the electricity to the pump due to the fact that the fire dept., school and ambulance will need to access the fuel. Matt we need to research before we spend a lot of money on cameras.

11. Jeff on CCIF Frank sent two emails to him that he made a copy to give to the Selectboard members. Is wondering what is happening with the funds. Betty will set up a conference call with them. Jeff would protect the funds going forward. Jeff is talking about previous funds. Where the missing money is. Michelle said that Jack Daniels, Jan Westervelt and Mike have gone thru all the funds and have a paper trail in the vault.
12. Adjourn – Mike 1<sup>st</sup>, Ruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 7:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer