

SELECTBOARD MEETING

October 8, 2015

Present: Alex Weinhagen Brent Meacham
Dave Adams Nanette Rogers

Guests: See List

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Lavallee was present to discuss concerns. Mr. Lavallee feels the Board has breached an agreement with regard to the firewood he received for trees that were cut on his property. The firewood came from a member of the road crew however it was not supposed to per the mediation agreement. The Board acknowledged the firewood came from a road crew member however the road crew member cuts firewood for a living in addition to being on the road crew. The Board felt this was acceptable.

Mr. Lavallee expressed concern with property rights. He feels Brent wanting to take out beaver dams on Woods Hollow Road violated property rights and wetland regulations. Brent advised that he approached the Board to ask them what they wanted to do. The Board did not feel it was necessary at this time.

Mr. Lavallee revisited his concern with the garage doors being left open, especially during the winter. Brent stated this was discussed at a previous meeting and he's corrected it.

Mr. Lavallee feels the town hired the wrong guy for Road Foreman. Alex and Dave disagree and supported Brent. They also stated that they have answered all of Mr. Lavalee's questions and concerns stated at previous meetings. Alex advised that all meetings are public and that if Mr. Lavallee has items he would like to discuss with the Board to contact him or the Town Office to schedule a time at a future meeting.

MINUTES

Dave Adams made a motion to approve the September 21, 2015 minutes as drafted, seconded by Alex Weinhagen. Motion passed: 2-0.

LISTERS FY'17 BUDGET REQUEST

Caroline Brown was present. The Listers proposed budget consists of increases in salaries, tax mapping and software. The increase in salaries is based on an increase in hourly wages as well as more hours being submitted by the third Lister. The Board would like the Listers to request a quote from the tax mapping company.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION FY'17 BUDGET REQUEST

Sarah Pinto and Joel Fay were present. The Commission is requesting \$1,800, which is level funded. They would like to purchase a D.R. trimmer for trail maintenance, which will use most of the funds requested. Alex pointed out that some community members would probably be willing to donate funds to help with the purchase. Dick Lavallee asked if the brush hog could be used. It was pointed out that it is designed for road side use and is too large for the trails.

The Commission requested that any unspent funds be transferred to their unrestricted funds account. The Board will research this. The Board thanked Joe Fay for his efforts in maintaining the trails.

RECREATION COMMITTEE FY'17 BUDGET REQUEST

Heather Armata was present. The Recreation Committee is requesting \$5,000, which is level funded. The programs offered to residents have doubled, almost tripled and are sustainable. There are some programs, such as lacrosse, that may not be renewed. The funds will be used to purchase new uniforms, ice rink materials and be available if the new Rec Coordinator needs more hours.

Alex pointed out that the request of funds is starting to make a commitment that the taxpayers didn't use to have.

Heather also discussed with the Board creating an online registration program where the applicant can pay for the program without having to leave the website page. Keith Simpson explained that there is a plugin that will meet the Commission's goals. The Rec Committee will pay for the plugin however it involves the town increasing its SSL certificate. This plugin would replace the current Municipay system which is used for Rec fees, property taxes and miscellaneous fees. The cost for increasing the SSL certificate is \$90.00. Heather would like to get the switch completed by mid-November before a new coordinator is hired. The Board would like one more meeting to consider the request.

TOWN CLERK FY'17 BUDGET REQUEST

Nanette presented a budget request for the Clerk's Office and the Board of Civil Authority. Increases include salaries (2%), education/travel, and ballots/voting machine. Most of the increases are due to having three elections, one of which is the Presidential election, during FY'17.

DOG COMPLAINT

Erik Wammer and George and Caroline Desorcie were present to discuss a dog complaint filed by Erik against one of the dogs owned by the Desorcies. Several folks were present in support of the Desorcies. The Selectboard stated that a legal opinion was obtained that advised the Town/Dog Warden has no authority to enforce dog complaints that occur on private roads and common land of associations. The Board worked with all those present to discuss the problem and try to find some resolution.

The Desorcies stated that their dog is friendly and has never bit anyone. They acknowledge that he does bark and go into the road however if he is told no he will retreat. They have also been more vigilant about watching him while outside. Erik explained that he has been bitten by a dog and feels threatened when a dog approaches him barking and behaving viciously. The Board hopes that all parties involved can reach some sort of resolution, such as an introduction to the dog, further training by the Desorcies, providing dog biscuits to encourage friendly interaction with the dog.

INSURANCE COVERAGE ON TOWN PROPERTY

The Town received its renewal application for property and casualty, workers' compensation and auto insurance. Nanette noticed that the Spiller House is insured for \$44,589 and felt it was too high. The Board agreed and would like the amount reduced to zero providing it does not affect liability coverage on the property.

HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR 2016

At the last meeting, the Board requested how much was budgeted for health insurance and if there was a percentage factored in for rate increases. Nanette advised that the Board has level funded the benefit at \$8,200 per year, per full time employee. Any balance is contributed to an HRA or HAS depending on whether the employee has a conventional policy or a high deductible policy. The Board would like to level fund again for FY'17. Nanette could not recall the amount budgeted for employees who opt out of insurance coverage. The Board asked Nanette to find this information, inquire if there is a limit on how much or how many years the Board can roll over unspent HRA funds, and draft a motion for the next meeting for the Board to consider when finalizing the health insurance options for employees.

ROAD SCHEDULE

Dave Adams made a motion to approve the Road Schedule for October 8, 2015 through October 21, 2015, with an amendment to include Brent following up with the librarian on the work that was done and how to work going forward, seconded by Alex Weinhagen. Motion passed: 2-0.

The paving of the Westford Milton Road will be complete after the fog lines are painted next week. The Board and Brent discussed how wide the lanes should be. It was decided the fog line should be painted 10 feet from the center of the road.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL WARRANTS

The Board approved the accounts payable and payroll warrants. It was noted that \$377,448 were expenses for the Seymour Road Bridge project and the paving of the Westford Milton Road.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received an email from Joe Franz regarding his mailbox being hit when the road was graded. Brent will look into it and contact Joe Franz.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexander Weinhagen, Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Administrator

TOWN OF WESTFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
GUEST LIST

Date: October 8, 2015

Name (please print)

Address

Sarah Pinto	111 Machia Hill Rd Westford
Ben & Kelly Saunders	84 Mountain Rd.
Richard Kavalles	39 Old Hill Road
Joel Fay	1729 Rt 128
Carolyn Brown	138 Hurdley Rd.
Caroline Desorcie	156 Mtn Rd
George Desorcie	156 Mtn Rd
Heather Amath	97 Deer Run Lane
Keith Simpson	45 Sinding Rd
Erik Wammer	489 Old Stage Rd
Lynn Burrell	150 Mountain Rd
JOE RIELEY	150 MOUNTAIN RD
M. J. F.	19 Leaf Road