

TOWN OF WESTON

P.O. BOX 98

WESTON, VT 05161

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 22nd, 2022 at 7:30 PM

Present: Denis Benson, Charles Goodwin, Ann Fuji'i, Lisa Yrsha and Jim Linville

Absent: None

Public: Natalie Boston, Kim Seymour, Sarah Kiefer, Kelly Pajala, Jason Marino and Donald Hart.

Denis Benson calls the meeting to order at 7:28 PM

- 1. Review and Approve Minutes:** A few corrections and clarifications made. Jim Linville moves to approve, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
- 2. Changes and Additions to the Agenda:** Denis Benson notes the selectboard received the financial summary, they will review and revisit at the next meeting. Jim Linville notes a few small things to discuss under new/old business.
- 3. Regional Recreation Director Position:** Sarah Kiefer begins by explaining the proposed position, responsibilities and reasons why this would need to be a full time position. She explains the budgeting projected cost for Weston (14%) for a total of \$13,408.28. If approved at Town Meeting the next step would be to assemble an Advisory Council. Jim Linville asks if this position is approved at Town Meeting, when the position would begin. Sarah explains that the council would be immediately while the Regional Recreation Director Position wouldn't be until July 1st. Kelly Pajala explains that Londonderry fiscal year begins July 1st. Annie Fuji'i asks how The Weston Rec Park would play into this. Sarah says the first year would be mainly establishing the relationship and could look into possibilities for the rec in the future. Denis Benson asks about expenses for travel and other unknown costs. Sarah says that there are no additional Funding Requests. Kelly notes that normal Londonderry expenses will remain in the Londonderry budget. Lisa Yrsha asks if they need to start off with the full time position or if they had considered starting with part time and working up to full time. If needed. Discussion. Kim Seymour points out to the Selectboard that Weston runs on a calendar fiscal year so the first year would be 1/2. Discussion.
- 4. Kelly Pajala:** Denis Benson begins by asking Kelly Pajala what the impact of the planned town reassessment would be, expresses concern about doing the reassessment at the height of housing "bubble". Kelly asks if Weston is required to do the reassessment and Selectboard confirms yes. Denis goes on to explain a particular concern for inherited land getting hit hard and being forced to sell if can no longer afford. Discussion. Kelly says that it is not that no one cares but that it is likely people will be hurt by the reassessment. Denis Benson asks about education tax. Kelly notes a policy shift that will result with lowering education tax if area fits into rural/poverty criteria. She also notes discussions on doing away with religious exemptions in public accommodations act regarding tuition going to religious schools.. Kelly notes the hope to "not allow discriminatory institutions to receive public funds". Discussion. Denis Benson asks Kelly about some land that was given to the Mount Holly Land Trust that is gated off now. When it had been approved they were told

that it was going to be open to the public, specifically for hunting. Discussion. Lisa Yrsha says she will try and contact them tomorrow. Jim Linville asks about previous structural deficit pre-COVID, specifically population. Kelly discusses changes to the pension system, and also notes that Vermont is tied with Maine for the oldest population. Discussion. Denis Benson asks if there is any discussion on how/where towns will get raw materials for roads. Discussion on state wide or regional group purchasing agreement possibilities. Denis Benson goes on to ask about who will dispose of solar panels once their life is done. Discussion on how they should have a plan on who and how they are disposed of/recycled. Annie Fuji'i asks what, if anything is being discussed to deal with short term rentals. Kelly says she assumes the discussion will come up and expects it to be a heated topic. Lisa says that current laws are not landlord friendly and thinks it should just be fair. Kim Seymour expresses that as an Inn owner she just wants the same rules for short term rentals that she has to follow. Discussion.

5. **SO #25 Payroll/ SO #25 Vendors:** Jim Linville moves to approve SO #25 payroll for the amount of \$9,385.27, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

Annie Fuji'i moves to approve SO #25 Vendors for the amount of \$21,111.80, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

6. **New/Old Business:** Denis Benson notes an access permit received for Andrew Clapp, Natalie Boston says that Almon Crandall had given it to her earlier that day and gave the OK as long as payment had been received. Discussion on culvert size. Jim Linville moves to approve with condition of installing an 18 inch culvert, Annie Fuji'i 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

Jim Linville notes changes to Christmas in Weston's plan for fireworks. They will now be held in field across from the firehouse. Jim Linville moves to modify approval for traffic control to include on Serenity Lane (private drive). Discussion on if Jason Okie has been told about the change so he can be prepared for it with his cattle. Discussion. Discussion on Lights for the Town Office and Natalie Boston says she is happy to put them up again. Jim Linville notes the Library creating an expansion group. Annie Fuji'i notes a contract with MSK and \$1,000 deposit payment.

The Selectboard also sends a thank you to Carol MacLaury for painting the "Village of Weston" signs.

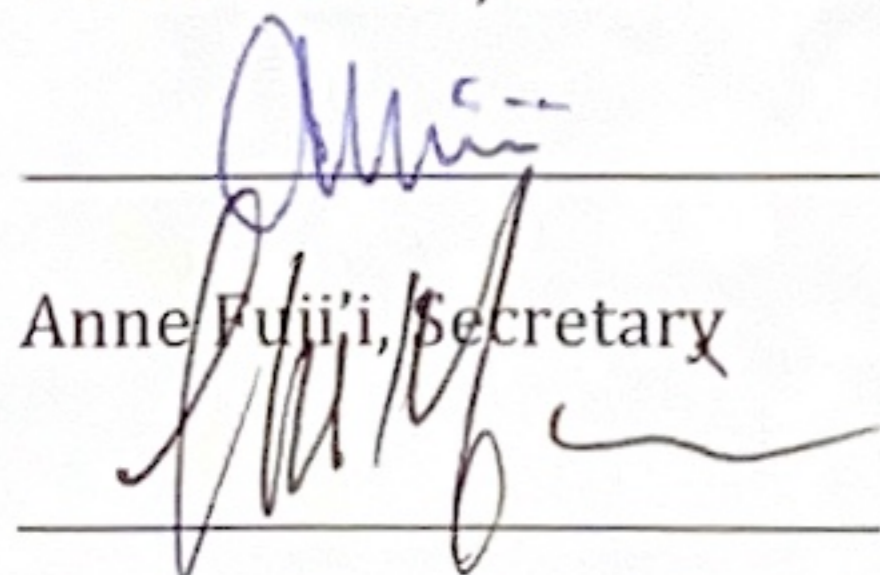
Charles Goodwin moves to adjourn, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

Meeting Adjourned 9:02 PM

Weston Selectboard:



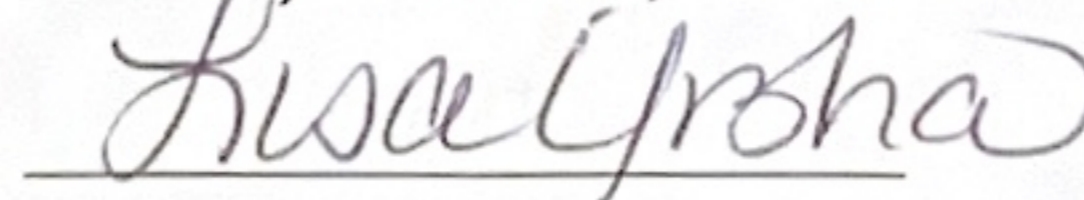
Denis Benson, Chair



Anne Fuji'i, Secretary

Charles Goodwin

Jim Linville, Vice Chair



Lisa Yrsha