

TOWN OF WESTON
P.O. BOX 98
WESTON, VT 05161-0098
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2020 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Denis Benson, Jim Linville, Charles ("Tim") Goodwin, Bruce Downer and Ann Fuji'i

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC: Jen Stromsten, Cherise Forbes, Kim Seymour and Natalie Boston

Denis Benson called to order at 7:32 PM

1. **Changes to the Agenda:** None
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **SeVEDS Presentation:** Jen Stromsten begins with how this year is much different due to Covid. Normally would bring a folder full of information for each person but wasn't going to send a bunch of digital files. Trying to continue as normal but Covid has definitely had an effect. Dealing with a lot of Covid specific stuff. Discussion and explanation on what they have currently been doing. Just finished CEDS and with Covid had to look at differently. Jen notes that a lot of people have come to VT, with that are a lot of both excitement and anxiety. Have a lot of unemployed people and how do we take care of them? The state needs people but have a difficult time caring for who is already here, and now the added influx of people. Jen says they have a press even coming up in a couple weeks on higher needs assessments. Asks the question of what do employers need? Jim Linville notes that the answer is fast internet in Southern Vermont. Jen says that they have done a lot for that movement and hosted numerous conversations on it, but defer to the regional planning commission to take the lead. Have the capacity for some of the organizing and connecting but regional planning commission must take lead as far as implementation as it is more infrastructures. Jen goes on to discuss the need for people, recently did welcome wagons to welcome newcomers. Jim Linville says internet is needed and people will come, Annie Fuji'i adds cell service as well. Jen explains how they are preaching to the Choir, would be the biggest and best thing but they don't control that. Organizationally that is not their focus. Discussion on programs with high schools but not in our area. All members question why that is and it's a service area issue. The area serviced includes the town but not the local High schools. Jen says that after Irene learned there's never enough relief for long enough. Just call her, not online, like to help find the right people. Denis Benson

questions past incentive of giving couples \$10,000 to move to VT and work in VT; then next page is outsourcing possible jobs. Jen says that that program was a problem from the start. Can't Poo-poo it as it did bring people to VT. Their main job is not having people leave (typically due to high taxes or no internet). Charles Goodwin notes that should be working with Burr and Burton. Jen says that hasn't due to the service area question but she will ask and discuss with their high school person to reach out to Burr am Burton.

4. **Fuel Bids:** Natalie Boston said that she had attempted to reach out to Irving to get the bid corrected but didn't hear or receive anything back. She had reached out to Suburban Propane and was able to get a bid from them. Discussion on the bids. Jim Linville moves to accept Suburban's bid pending the town can receive \$1,480 Credit from HB. Annie Fuji'i states that she would abstain from the vote as she had negative past experience with the company. Annie goes on to say in her opinion service is just as important as price. Charles Goodwin makes a motion to accept Cota & Cota's bid, Annie Fuji'I 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
5. **Grant To Digitize Land Records:** Kim Seymour begins by saying that the town had been awarded the grant for \$14,060. The deadline is November 1st, just needs the go ahead to proceed. Discussion on fee's coming in and fee for portal (\$100 a month), Kim Seymour notes that this year alone has gotten \$15,000 from record fees. Goal is to just make the documents accessible. Denis Benson expresses the dislike of land records being accessible to anyone online, makes him personally uncomfortable. Annie Fuji'i says she believes it is just the way of the future and makes a motion to proceed, Jim Linville 2nd. Yay: Jim Linville, Charles Goodwin, Annie Fuji'i and Bruce Downer. Nay: Denis Benson. *Motion Carries.*
6. **Review and Approve Minutes:** Jim Linville notes name spelling correction and other spelling corrections. Charles Goodwin also corrects "soccer field" is actually Fields rd. Charles Goodwin makes a motion to accept with corrections, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
7. **SO #20 Payroll, SO #20-B Payroll, SO #20 Vendors:** Bruce Downer makes a motion to accept SO# 20 Payroll for the amount of \$6,822.13, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
Bruce Downer makes a motion to accept SO #20 Vendors for the amount of \$14,238.30, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
Bruce Downer makes a motion to accept SO #20-B Payroll for the amount of \$13,543.13, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

New/Old Business: Denis Benson notes email received from Jim Linville on the Trout Club Rd culvert. Going to touch base with Mark Pickering to start looking for someone to do the job, culvert will be 8x12 so will be a big job. Annie Fuji'i asks why discuss with Mark and Jim Linville explains will have to reach out to him and Vtrans

for recommendations. Will the Rd need to be closed? Make a temporary Rd? How much concrete? Etc. Need recommendations on budget and how to proceed as this is going to be expensive and can't close Trout Club Rd. Denis Benson confirms that all agree to move forward, yes from all members.

Jim Linville notes the CCC Trail.

Jim Linville brings up the Knowlton Tree planting, He spoke with Bill Knowlton and they are fine with signing letter drafter by Rob Woolmington. Jim notes he still needs to make the call to Rob on this.

Jim Linville also brings up that he spoke with Rusty Davis and he is glad to be our contact for the Broadband. Jim asks Natalie Boston to reach out to Steven John and let know that the town of Weston voted to be a part of the Deerfield Valley Communications Union District (DVCUD).

Jim Linville discusses plan moving forward in regards to budget for garage equipment. Will soon buy backhoe and have good schedule for town equipment purchases.

Charles Goodwin to Jim Linville asks about getting in contact with Cota & Cota on generator switches for The Little School. Jim Linville say no, has not followed up yet. Kim Seymour reminds that next week there will be a 1 week payroll so will need one member to come in and approve. Jim Linville volunteers to come in.

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

Adjourn meeting at 8:45 PM