

TOWN OF WESTON
P.O. BOX 98
WESTON, VT 05161-0098
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2020 7:30 PM

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

ABSENT: Jim Linville

PUBLIC: Nicole Wengard, Almon Crandal, Cherise Forbes and Natalie Boston

Denis Benson called to order at 7:35 PM

- 1. Changes To The Agenda:** Denis Benson requests that the Selectboard allows Almon Crandal to begin first as he has to be up early the next day.

Almon begins by saying not much going on. Winter sand is being brought in now from Renaud Gravel. Tom Fuller will be coming back to complete the road line painting. Had been a complaint about the apron by the Wilder Inn so Almon had put down gravel but resident requested that they add blacktop instead. Denis Benson asks what the price would be for adding blacktop to that spot. Almon says it would be about \$89 for a ton to meet wishes. Denis Benson notes that after labor and other costs it would be a \$300-\$400 project. Noted that the blacktop under that spot is broken. Charles Goodwin asked what the bid for paving requested and if this should have been done with that. Almon explains it called for a 2 foot apron, which is what they did. Charles Goodwin says that he would favor pleasing that tax payer. Charles makes a motion to purchase 1 ton of blacktop materials and have Almon fix the problem, Bruce Downer 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

Denis Benson asks Almon before he leaves his thoughts on the Knowlton tree planting. Almon Crandal says that he looked into it and they are within 1 foot being out of the Right of Way. Would rather not have trees in right of way but would not be in the way of snow removal. A way down the road may interfere or cause damage to blacktop. The right of way is 49.6. Discussion on the right of way and if this would be in or out of it. Denis Benson says he feels it is a bit of a slap to the face, feel the Board is being ignored. Had been brought to the Selectboard in the past and were told the board did not want anything in the towns right of way. Discussion on the right of way, Denis Benson says will be discussed later.

Almon says he heard back from CAT on backhoe price, still waiting to hear from John Deer. Almon Crandal leaves the meeting.

- The Little School Building and Grounds Committee: Nicole Wengard says the committee is working on a lot of projects before school begins and one is to remove the water feature in playground area. Explains there is a licensing issue and sharp

edges. School opening has been delayed to October 19th. The Committee plans on having a volunteer from Hunter Excavating come in on a weekend with a small excavator. Will be used for Garden beds, smoothing out mulch as well as removing the water feature. Nicole notes that the feature is close to the septic system so believed it would be good to check in with the Selectboard. Denis Benson suggests that they contact Dig Safe in reference to the septic. Nicole says they don't plan on doing any digging there and just need because cannot take out by hand (pipe and rocks cemented in). Discussion on drainage issues and reference to it being "Little School Lake". Denis Benson says that he is ok with them proceeding as long as no heavy rain before.

Before Nicole leaves she asks about replacing the windows in the school so that they could be opened. Due to Covid, teachers would like to be able to open and get fresh air into the classrooms but was unsure if considered historical. Possibly looking into a grant to fund as it is in relation to the Covid pandemic. Denis Benson says they would probably need to be similar in height and width. Charles Goodwin asks if they are the original windows and recalls that they used to open but Denis says they have been painted over so sealed shut. Nicole also mentions they had discussed looking into screens for if they can be chipped open. Bruce Downer comments that he is unsure if screens are allowed in schools due to fire safety. Nicole Wengard says she had not thought of that and would look into it. They will also contact Dig Safe just to be sure of septic.

2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Almon Crandall:** Covered earlier
4. **VT-Alert:** Natalie Boston begins by saying after clarification and discussion with Ian Kilburn (VT-Alert Administrator) the system is strictly for emergencies. Noted instances of risk to life or property, road closures, flooding, fire. Spoke with Ryan Hart (Fire Chief) and he would like himself and his Chief Aid to be managers as well and seemed excited about the system. Explains the situation with Londonderry having the state cover theirs is not the normal and is actually trying to communicate with them to take back over. Ian is the only person putting out state alerts and it is intended for the municipalities to manage themselves. If needed to let citizens know about an emergency right then (fire, flood) we would be able to let know before the state would be able to. Charles Goodwin asks about school closures and Natalie was unsure but did not believe that would be included. Discussion on what it is more, how people get alerts. Free to us but funded through taxes. Charles Goodwin moves to have Denis Benson sign the Adoption for VT-Alert, Annie Fuji's 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
5. **Tree Planting- Knowlton 35 Boynton:** Denis Benson begins by noting that the provided sketch is not the same as what Almon had been saying. In sketch it says trees would be 4 feet from the fence so would be even closer to the road. Denis

Benson makes a motion that if they want to plant trees they have to be out of the right of way. Charles Goodwin questions if the sketch does say it will be out of the right of way. Discussion on drawing provided. Denis Benson says they also probably took measurements from center of blacktop and that roads are not always center in the right of way. Natalie Boston notes that in conversations with Tim Calabrese that the Knowlton's would take responsibility for the trees and any maintenance and that he also has an appointment to go into the town clerks to review maps. Charles Goodwin moves to table for time being, need more information. Bruce Downer 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

6. **Generator/Battery Backup:** Denis Benson is unsure of the feasibility of it (cost). Charles Goodwin says as he understands it we would be adding to the structure of The Little School/Annex. Would be an addition on outside wall. Jim Linville had done some research and duration of batteries is limited. Charles Goodwin also notes that when The Little School doesn't have power they can't legally have the kids there and don't always know where the parents are right when that happens. He thinks it is a great idea but don't believe we can accommodate and need to be thinking about a generator. Annie Fuji'i questions if the batteries would replace the generator or be a backup. Discussion on batteries instead of a generator. Charles Goodwin makes a motion to table until next meeting. Also says he believes zoning administrator thinks a generator can go in "V" on backside of the Town Office. Concern of playground. Question if zoning set back requirements would be needed since town owns the property. Denis Benson mentions rolling all properties into one deed as to not need to be a certain distance from a property line. Charles Goodwin says he is unsure if that would be possible due to conditions of people who gave the property. Annie Fuji'i 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
7. **Fiber-Optic:** Charles Goodwin says he dropped the ball on reaching back out to Stephan John about attending a meeting. Charles asks Natalie Boston to "rattle his chain" on this to get him to the next meeting.
8. **2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program:** Discussion on what it is and questions if this has been done and signed already. Natalie Boston says that she questioned that as well but it is in fact something different. Discussion on fee's, cost. Work mostly all done already. Charles Goodwin (reluctantly) moves to sign, Annie Fuji'i 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
9. **The Notice to Proceed:** Charles Goodwin moves to sign. Annie Fuji'i 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
10. **Town Health Officer:** Received an email from the Londonderry Selectboard Chair saying two local selectboard chairs had been appointed to their Town Health officer positions when previous THO's declined to continue for another term. They had requested that Weston consider the possibility of a shared position between several

towns. The Board is Happy with what we have going. Reviewed the email and no action taken.

11. Little School Water: Natalie Boston had been discussing with Kim Seymour taking over the water meter readings for her and she had mentioned there had been discussion on Will Goodwin taking over in the past. Table to do more research and see if Natalie or Will would want to take on.

12. Review and Approve Minutes- July 28th, 2020: Charles Goodwin moves to approve, Bruce Downer 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

13. SO #17 Payroll, So #17 Vendors: Bruce Downer moves to approve SO #17 Payroll for the amount of \$7,143.65, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
Charles Goodwin makes a motion to approve SO #17 Vendors for the amount of \$44,199.53, Annie Fuji'i 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

14. New/Old Business: None

Charles Goodwin moves to adjourn, Bruce Downer 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 PM

Weston Selectboard:

Denis Benson, Chair

Jim Linville, Vice Chair

Anne Fuji'i, Secretary

Bruce Downer

Charles Goodwin