

**TOWN OF WESTON**  
**P.O. BOX 98**  
**WESTON, VT 05161-0098**  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 14, 2020 7:30 PM**

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**PRESENT:** Denis Benson, Jim Linville, Charles (“Tim”) Goodwin, Bruce Downer and Ann Fuji’i

**ABSENT:** None

**PUBLIC:** Kim Seymour, Natalie Boston, Almon Crandall, Bruce Frauman and Andrew Harper

**Denis Benson called to order at 7:31 PM**

- 1. Changes to the Agenda: Covid-19:** Table to New/Old business. Moving Almon up.
- 2. Almon:** Paving done except for yellow lines, trout club and more gravel in other spots, overall happy with the job done. Road mowing begins next week, will be doing 3 passes. Waiting on sand prices to come in, have one but waiting on two. Jim Linville mentioned that Transit figured out location of elevation for generator. Charles Goodwin asks about a bump in paving in driveways (property by Betty Currie). Almon Crandall believes it is fixed but will check. Annie Fuji’i asked about the lines specifically. Almon Crandall explains they will only do the double yellow lines, parking spaces the town will have to do and decide how. Annie Fuji’i asked about a time frame for the yellow lines. Almon Crandall said as of now it is unknown. Annie Fuji’i expresses concern for the “triangle”, some cars get confused so thinks needs some clarity for lanes there. Jim Linville mentions that we should take a hard look at painting outside town office (parking), would like to see doing less rather than more. Annie Fuji’i agrees. Almon Crandall leaves the meeting.
- 3. Public Comment:** Andrew Harper expresses he wished Almon Crandall had stayed as he is involved. Andrew expresses concern for all of the poison parsnip on roadsides. Suggesting the town consider doing mowing 2 times a year instead of one. Denis Benson explains that it could be considered for next year, been budgeted for one this year. Jim Linville agrees with Andrew Harper and not being dismissive on this issue. Andrew Harper goes on to say that while it is a native plant, it has been getting worse and worse and reason is it doesn’t get mowed before it goes to seed. Questions if it is an issue for the town to deal with or the state and how to go about it. Jim Linville says it is a good question; he will reach out to VTrans and find out from Almon the possible cost. Asks Andrew to do some research to find the best time of year for mowing in regards to the Poison Parsnip. Discussion on what it is

exactly and identifying it. Andrew Harper again expresses concern for the amount around as people have been going to the ER with burns.

4. **EMD Guidelines on Hours/Compensation:** Some limitation to hours to training, 10-20 hours first ¼, then no more than 10 remaining ¼'s. Do as needed in an emergency but in hours as needed. Annie Fuji'i agrees should have definition and limitation. Charles Goodwin suggests talking to Birgit and Kevin Beattie, 10 hours a ¼ seems like a lot. They may have a better idea. Jim Linville suggests tabling and have Natalie Boston reach out to Kevin and Birgit. Charles Goodwin moves to table and have Natalie reach out to Kevin and Birgit on this. Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
5. **VT Alert:** Natalie Boston summarizes what it is: free service where we can get a message out in emergencies to locals email, telephone or by text message. Will need at least two people to manage it. Kim Seymour confirms that can include something on this in the tax information (early August tax bill) to be sent out, can put on the website. Clarification on what it is and how it works. Bruce Frauman mentions there is training on how to use it and explains that Londonderry had it but now lets the state manage it. Decided to explore option to let the state handle. Tim Goodwin moves to table and Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
6. **Zoning Matters:** Charles Goodwin begins by saying that the Zoning administrator does a good job and tries to stay on top of things. Believes need to reauthorize Will Goodwin to enforce local ordinances, someone (Jim Linville and Charles Goodwin) to get in touch with Rob Woolmington on this. Jim Linville makes a motion to reauthorize enforcing of local ordinances. Will talk to legal, Charles Goodwin 2<sup>nd</sup>. Annie Fuji'i questions which issue this is in reference to as there are multiple. Questions how do you decide perusing one over the other and suggests a meeting with Will Goodwin would help. Jim Linville explains this issue is specifically to do with signage, may be other issues in the future. Annie Fuji'i asks how do we enforce zoning irregularities or lack of compliance. Denis Benson says should approach a little bit at a time and not all at once. Jim Linville continues to say should start here and deal with the rest case by case. Annie Fuji'i mentions that in the past when done been backlash; "Why are you picking on me but what about them." Question on a policy on compliance and enforcing zoning issues. Jim Linville says the signage issue is fairly simple and making a "master list" would be very complicated. Solve this first and more on to next. Annie Fuji'i suggests a meeting with Will Goodwin. Charles Goodwin questions how that meeting would be structured, would need to talk Rob Woolmington about how that could be held, executive session? Annie Fuji'i agrees with signage issue and thinks it should be addressed. Charles Goodwin says should begin with this as there is an inequity with local businesses (one complying and one not), narrow scope of the issue. Annie Fuji'i also notes they should define temporary

signs vs. permanent: Sandwich boards and banners (what if banner out all year round?). *Unanimously approved.*

7. **Financial Management Questionnaire:** Charles Goodwin moves to sign, Tim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.* Jim Linville says nice job to Kim Seymour; speaks well of her stewardship.
8. **Financial Summary – Review:** Discussion on low %, Charles Goodwin wonders if from COVID-19. Kim Seymour explains that not due to this, final payment for Lawrence Hill Rd wall last year made that higher than normal and have not paid for paving yet. Will go up soon.
9. **Tax Rate Tax Rate:** Jim Linville talked in past at looking at the budget again at potential cuts for the residents, as the impact of COVID-19 affects everyone. Seems like not doing Trout Club Road culvert, and cutting some other items might reduce tax rate this year. Kim Seymour put together a summary: *Our Tax rate this year if the budget is followed:* Nonresidential: 2.2537 Homestead: 2.2281 Last Year (Approximate): Nonresidential: 2.21 Homestead: 2.16 Denis Benson asks about how much of increase for State education: Last year: Nonresidential: 1.6769 Homestead: 1.62 This Year: Nonresidential: 1.6820 Homestead: 1.656 Denis Benson asks to confirm in that case State education brought rate tax rate up 3¢ and town rate up 3¢. Kim Seymour confirms yes. Discussion on how the Trout Club Road culvert was budgeted and general funding. Charles Goodwin asks if this is complicated at all by what the tax payer’s voted on at town meeting. Kim Seymour said no, she spoke with Rob Woolmington and the town has the ability to change it especially with the new law that was enacted in March (Reference?) that says can change the tax rate. Denis Benson makes a motion to leave all alone except for the Trout Club Road. culvert (can be done in 2021), as we are in good shape overall - that is, take out the culvert expense and the structures reimbursement. Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.* *Kim Seymour did a rough calculation of the tax rate with changes: **Nonresidential: 2.19 Homestead: 2.17*** Kim will check this calculation after this meeting.  
Official Rate:  
**Nonresidential: 2.2135                      Homestead: 2.1879**  
Kim Seymour asks if the Selectboard wants to have a 3% late fee on late homestead filing (asks every year). Usually it is done, Denis Benson says he would be willing to pass this year. Charles Goodwin moves to pass this year, Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
*Unanimously approved.*
10. **Delinquent Tax Report:** Charles Goodwin moves to have the minutes reflect Received and reviewed Delinquent tax report and accepted. Annie Fuji'i 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
*Unanimously approved.*

- 11. Survey of Properties:** Jim Linville expresses the property line for The Little School and the Christmas Shop parking lot is difficult to define/find. The Generator has a 10ft set back requirement in flood zone so need to understand property line. Suggests getting a survey done to see what we own exactly. Charles Goodwin moves to get survey done, Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. Charles Goodwin notes that had just been discussing trying to save money, this would not do so but generator is needed. Denis Benson asks if Jim has spoken with Tom Foster, Jim has not but wouldn't address the Southern boundary of the School. Denis Benson asks if the Septic permits had been looked into for reference. Kim Seymour says that information would be in permit folders, was not checked. Denis Benson amends motion to add once the Septic has been researched first. Charles Goodwin 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
- 12. FEMA-DR-4445-VT Project Agreement:** Jim Linville moves to have Denis Benson sign, Charles Goodwin 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
- 13. Review and Approve Minutes: June 23, 2020:** Jim Linville notes a few small changes. Charles Goodwin moves to approve with changes, Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
- 14. SO #15 Payroll, SO #15 Vendors:** Bruce Downer moves to approve Payroll SO#15 for the amount of \$7,537.59, Charles Goodwin 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.* Charles Goodwin moves to approve Vendor SO#15 for the amount of \$14,172.57, Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
- 15. Executive Session:** Not needed
- 16. New/Old Business:** Jim Linville on Generator: Struggling to figure out size needed. Need to figure out heat pumps may be buying in future. Been looking into a 24KW machine turns out a 30KW virtually same. Weighs more, takes more fuel, engine same and only \$2,000 more. 30KW machine will easily run heat pumps. Do we get an electrician/engineer who does heat pumps to produce specs for heat pumps may get to see if 24KW will work or just get the 30KW. Annie Fuji'i asks if Jim has tried to contact Efficiency Vermont. Jim confirms yes, has tried but they don't do energy surveys. Denis Benson expresses he thinks should just get the 30KW and be done with it. Charles Goodwin inclined to agree with Denis, small differential, don't know future power usage. Bruce Frauman mentions that Londonderry has been finding

problems with theirs being oversized. Suggests some expertise to assure not too large. Charles Goodwin asks who in Londonderry could be talked to about this and Bruce says Shane O'Keefe. Denis Benson moves to peruse the 30KW machine and talk to Shane O'Keefe on their issues. Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*

**Email from Jane Worley:** Natalie Boston reads email aloud:

"Dear Select Board Members,

As an APRN trained and having responded to large scale disasters and where-as we have insufficient compliance with public health initiatives to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, in addition to lacking adequate testing, contact tracing, challenges with epidemiological reporting and statistical analysis, vaccination, and treatment, I ask that Weston please consider an emergency mandate to require all its citizens to wear face masks in public. I am contacting other surrounding town officials and asking to immediately adopt the same. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane Worley, APRN  
Peru, VT"

Charles Goodwin notes that the Selectboard supports the idea of wearing a mask, but doesn't believe we can mandate. Discussion on if we have the authority to do so. Charles Goodwin moves that we support mask usage but can't require it. Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*

Charles Goodwin moves to adjourn, Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*

**Adjourn meeting at 9:09 PM**

**Weston Selectboard:**

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Denis Benson, Chair

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Jim Linville, Vice Chair

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Anne Fuji'i, Secretary

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Bruce Downer

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Charles Goodwin