

TOWN OF WESTON
P.O. BOX 98
WESTON, VT 05161-0098
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2020 7:30 PM

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

ABSENT: Bruce Downer

PUBLIC: Kate Foster, Tim Calabrese, Cherise Forbes, Steven John, Heather Porter, Kim Seymour and Natalie Boston

Denis Benson called to order at 7:35 PM

- 1. Changes to the Agenda:** Move Little School Rent Relief to front.
- 2. Little School Rent Relief:** Kate Foster begins by thanking the Board for continued support and generosity. It has been a tough year for The Little School: had to close mid-March, summer camp program was only allowed at 50%, had to delay the opening to October and has had to limit days and hours as well as limit enrollment. They are trying to provide quality service but Covid has been a huge challenge. Kate Foster asks the board to consider the possibility of rent relief; for the year (September-September) full relief or discounted rent. Denis Benson suggests a rent hold until the government figures out what it will do, programs in the works, suspending rent till “ironed out”. Jim Linville says he would be happy to suspend rent through the end of the year and readdress at the beginning of next year. Annie Fuji’i asks when they have paid till. Kate says she understands that they have paid in full up through now and are current on rent. Charles Goodwin says he thinks that they run a wonderful institution, says he had done a little research and they have some funding/grants for childcare programs. Kate says that the current Covid grants that have been released have to be open by September 8th. Due to staffing issues they cannot open by then therefore do not apply. Kate Foster goes on to say that due to Covid, most of their fundraiser events have had to be canceled as well. Annie Fuji’i says she agrees with Jim Linville’s idea of suspending through the end of the year. Jim Linville makes a motion to suspend The Little School’s rent through the end of they year and address at the beginning of the year 2021. Annie Fuji’i 2nd. Denis Benson questions the reason for the staffing shortage. Kate Foster explains that there are multiple reasons: one teacher is on maternity leave, one got another job, 2 are returning but struggling to find childcare and one decided to not return. *Unanimously approved.*
- 3. Tree Planting:** Tim Calabrese gives a little introduction and explains the plan for planting of 3 trees on the Knowlton property. Desire to “beautify” entrance to Fields rd, won’t interfere with plowing. Owners have concern about parking, speed and traffic during tournaments at the fields. They are in the Right of Way (ROW) and the town

would have jurisdiction of them. Denis Benson says he believes this map does not match the Road Forman's measurements and would want to go with the Road Forman. Discussion on location and where ROW lays, how was measured. Jim Linville says he thinks a foot and a half within the ROW would not make much of a difference. Tim Calabrese says he measured the ROW very accurately. He exposed white lines on both sides, 2 feet within ROW. Discussion on desire to plant outside of fence vs inside. Street trees, canopy over the rd. Tim Goodwin asks about previous mentions on agreement of maintenance from the Knowlton's and wonders if it could be put into the deed. Tim Calabrese says he is sure they would agree to that. Denis Benson makes a motion to allow the trees to be planted where planned, but must get in writing/in the deed first. Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.* Jim Linville asks Tim Calabrese to draft a letter for the Selectboard and Knowlton signatures. Discussion on if letter is sufficient, Denis Benson believes it must be in the deed or can be lost/over looked in future. Discussion with Kim Seymour on ways it can be on the record. Jim Linville clarifies approval of trees pending the letter and says to talk with Rob and Kim Seymour for how to get in land records, thinks getting into deed, getting legal to write up changes, seems to be a "heavy lift". Denis Benson says ok as long as it doesn't slip through the cracks. Tim Calabrese says he will have a letter for maintenance of the trees ready for review by the next Meeting (9/8/2020).

- 4. Fiber-Optics:** Steven John explains he is here to answer any question the board may have. Charles Goodwin asks if there is any obligation if sign on. Steven John explains to go to statutes to see, goal is to connect all to the internet, there is no taxation power and is an effort to improve internet. Goes on to say how Fiber-optics is "future proof". Any town can join based on SB vote, simple to withdraw by SB vote as well (no reason to hold on as no tax payers involved). Annie Fuji's questions on time frame and if a new company or old, "piggy backing" off another company? Heather Porter asks for clarification on if this is in relation to 5G. Steven John says no, that's wireless while this is hardwire internet service. Annie Fuji's questions if areas truly underserved will be served. Discussion and explanation on not for profit to reach those who need, Covid opportunity to extend lines to increase coverage areas. Annie Fuji's asks about a time frame. Steven John in 2 weeks will release a business plan and will build from there in phases. Building in towns least served first, start with greatest need, will need to do a poll study. Weston won't be high on list, in beginning stages of planning. Steven John explains that each town will have one representative (SB chooses) as they don't plan on having any employees. Denis Benson questions what a poll study would be exactly and what it would entail. Steven John explains it would essentially be a health checkup on the condition of each pole in the state. Discussion on that, GMP resources and permits. Steven John mentions big advantage to fiber-optics is same upload speed as download speed. Denis Benson questions if down the rd. loans are due, who is responsible to pay? Steven John explains that the law protects taxpayers. Denis Benson asks about

Selectboard members who sign on, Steven explains no, will be protected by law as well. Steven explains more what the goal and purpose is. Those with lesser means have access, people paying for different levels of service. Natalie Boston asks about investigation on fiber-optics effect on home phone batteries. Steven John says will be contracting ISP network operator, contract to provide emergency phone service. Additionally have to have battery backup, can buy base, analog. Low power on telephone. Discussion on how cable run will go, "Tree and branch" town by town, Jim Linville understands it as Weston will be end of the line. Steven John explains that cables will be hung for free, brought up because of geography that will need 2 "offices" on North end and South end, north would be around rt 100&30. Will need some thought on where can have a "standing cabinet": not indoors as loud, on major rd, accessible and power backup. Denis Benson notes that the town owns a small piece of land not doing anything with on Johnson Hill rd. that may work for this. Discussion on "standing cabinet", business plan, how to join and withdraw if desired. Kim Seymour asks if will be available to businesses as an alternative to current internet (Comcast). Steven confirms yes will be an alternate option and available to businesses. Charles Goodwin thanks Steven John for coming and answering questions. Jim Linville says he looks forward to seeing the business plan once released. Steven John says it is up to you, can join anytime and will be approved.

5. **Wilder Memorial Library- Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permit:** Jim Linville says that this is more of a heads up to the Board on this in the works. The Library has no source of water and working on how the permit application will be signed.
6. **Generator:** Jim Linville begins by saying he doesn't see how they can choose a generator, get it sighted, built and installed before winter. People are too busy to install, let alone talk to about doing it. Installing behind school doesn't make sense (have to be 5 ft. off the ground), logical place is behind the Town Office but concern about setback from playground. Jim Linville believes there are too many issues to resolve then getting someone to install, don't see happening before winter. Admit reality, continue to work on and plan to install next spring. Charles Goodwin questions if setback would be needed from playground as Town owns both parcels and believes it is worthy of pursuit. Jim Linville says it shall be pursued, take time to figure out proper way to move forward, not violate terms and conditions. Charles Goodwin expresses concern for The Little School when the power goes out, have to send children home and remain closed until power returns, Questions possibility of renting a generator. Says weather action now or later figuring out the electrics for a generator, even for short run, for disruptions when power out. Denis Benson says will continue to work on but one goal will not meet this year.
7. **Little School Water:** Charles Goodwin makes a motion to sign the Public Water System Officials Contact Form, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
8. **Review and Approve Minutes 8/11/2020:** Annie Fuji'i makes a motion to approve, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
9. **Financial Summary:** Members received and will wait to discuss till the next meeting.

10. SO #18 Payroll: Jim Linville make a motion to approve SO # 18 Payroll for the amount of \$7,092.09 Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

SO # 18 Vendors: Charles Goodwin makes a motion to approve SO #18 Vendors for the amount of \$46,590.97 Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

11. New/Old Business: Charles Goodwin brings up zoning matters. Good idea for the Zoning Administrator to talk to Rob on proper forms to send. Jim Linville agrees, should know proper official warnings of a violation. Annie Fuji'i asks about a friendlier approach. Charles Goodwin explains more about learning how procedure is followed and proper forms, weather or not used. Learn the process, no go ahead without the SB knowing.

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

Adjourn meeting at 9:10 PM

Weston Selectboard:

Denis Benson, Chair

Jim Linville, Vice Chair

Anne Fuji'i, Secretary

Bruce Downer

Charles Goodwin