**TOWN OF WESTON**

**P.O. BOX 98**

**WESTON, VT 05161**

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**October 25th, 2022 at 7:30 PM**

**Present**: Charles Goodwin, Ann Fuji’i and Lisa Yrsha. (Zoom)Jim Linville

**Absent:** Denis Benson

**Public:** Natalie Boston, Casey Haynes and Chris Morrow. (Zoom) Brad Doyle, Ryan Hart, Jenifer Probst

Jim Linville calls the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

1. **Review and Approve Minutes:** Jim Linville notes a few changes. Charles Goodwin moves to approve September 27th minutes, Annie Fuji’i 2nd. *Unanimously approved*.
Charles Goodwin moves to approve October 11th minutes, Lisa Yrsha 2nd. *Unanimously approved*.
2. **Changes and Additions to the Agenda:** Jim Linville notes Weston Volunteer Fire Department could not make it.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation:** Casey Haynes begins by thanking for last year’s appropriation at Town Meeting. He updates the selectboard on programs over the last year. Discussion on programs (High school programs, Afghan refugees, Broadband CUD, small business COVID relief). Discussion on Municipal grants and short term rentals/housing.
5. **Weston Volunteer Fire Department:** Someone from Vermont Emergency Management was not able to make it so will discuss at the next meeting.
6. **Heat Pumps for Town Office:** Chris Morrow begins with a brief description of what heat pumps are and how they work. When looking at this he has been looking at it from a cost point of view as well as a climate point of view. He goes on to say he had looking into the background of the Town Office building: Oil furnace downstairs and electric heat upstairs as well as no AC upstairs. GSK gave a quote for a Dasikin (spelling?) unit of 1 compressor outside, and 3 units inside. Will either keep oil as backup heat or can convert over to propane. Discussion. Lisa Yrsha asks about the lifetime of the unit, Chris says he is unsure but it has a 12 year warrantee and the expected life is much longer. Jim Linville asks about the quotes (2 Scenarios). Chris says for the 1 compressor unit and 2 inside units, installed, would be $15,940. For the backup replacement for more efficient oil $7,500, to convert to propane backup $9,850 (not including the tanks). Charles Goodwin asks about compressor unit being in the flood zone. Discussion. Jim Linville notes looking to get a generator for the Town Office in the near future, questions how many KW the compressor draws as it might make an impact on generator choice. Chris says he is unsure but will ask. Jim Linville elaborates that there should be the goal of doing a single installation (generator, heat pumps, backup heat, electrical etc.). Stand for compressor should be about 3 feet off the ground at highpoint. Jim Linville notes to consider the noise of heat pumps if mounting to the building. Discussion. Lisa Yrsha asks about humidity and air filtration with the unit. Annie Fuji’i says there is a filter that you wash every couple of months. Discussion.
7. **Brad Doyle: MVP Heath Care**: Bad Doyle begins by explaining 2023 rates of MVP Heath (currently use) vs. Blue Cross and Blue Shield. If the selectboard chooses to do nothing and stay with MVP with the same plan, rates would go up 21% from this past year. If the Selectboard chooses to switch over to BCSB it would only go up 18.24%. Discussion. Noted the town has been with MVP for over 5 years, switched from BCBS in 2015 or 2016. Discussion on transition process. Brad assures that it would be a seamless transition and would be the same process as MVP. Brad also notes that in the past BCBS had been responsible for Medicaid coverage, this year is an “even playing field”. Discussion. Charles Goodwin moves to switch to BCBS, Annie Fuji’i 2nd. Discussion. Charles Goodwin withdraws his motion. Selectboard all agree it will be voted on at the Next Selectboard meeting.
8. **National Opioid Settlement Fund**: Natalie Boston says they are receiving another Payment of $103.54 but the Selectboard needs to decide how to use the fund. Discussion. Lisa Yrsha moves to allocate the money from this fund as a donation to My Community Nurse Project, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved*.
9. **American Rescue Plan Act**: Annie Fuji’i says that she will be meeting with Allison Stori on the 1st of November about facilitating the next ARPA Public Meeting. She had some questions on Facilitating/ Co-facilitating. Discussion.
10. **SO #23 Payroll/ SO #23 Vendors**: Charles Goodwin moves to approve SO #23 Payroll for the amount of $9,610.29, Lisa Yrsha 2nd. *Unanimously approved*.
Annie Fuji’i moves to approve SO #23 vendors for the amount of $25,945.15, Charles Goodwin 2nd. Lisa Yrsha raises a question on one tax overpayment, Natalie Boston calls Kim Seymour and she explains. *Unanimously approved*.
11. **New/Old Business**: Ryan Hart begins by saying that the Weston Volunteer Fire Department is looking into flood plans for the current Fire Department building. In the near future Vermont Emergency Management will have a presentation into options moving forward and will need to come to the Town for support (New Building/ Renovations to the current building). Jim Linville notes that he would assume that the cost to renovate the current building would be significantly less than the cost of new land and a new building. Thinks it would make a lot of sense to look at that vs. new. Ryan notes that one possibility would be a FEMA buy out (The Barn in Londonderry EX) and then turn over to the town % over value. He goes on to say there is also the idea of a municipal complex at the Town Garage. Discussion. Annie Fuji’i asks about a municipal department with Londonderry. Ryan says it was discussed but shut down fairly quick since they are both private organizations. Lisa Yrsha asks if the numbers had been run on this. Mentions the Municipal Complex in Chester that was pushing $5,000,000. Ryan Hart says it was $4,800,000 but also points out that was a facility for fire, rescue and police.
Jenifer Probst says she is there on behalf of the Rod and Gun Club with a request to submit for ARPA funds. Discussion. Letter was sent to Natalie and she will pass along to all the selectboard members.
Lisa Yrsha says that she was considering Hugh Gabert doing clearing/trimming on the wall, concern of the safety of him doing that work by himself. Discussion. Natalie will Keep trying to find any files from the Army Corps and Jim will reach out to them directly. Suggested that Natalie Boston reach out to VLCT and describe the work being done and if they have any recommendations for his safety.

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

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:07 PM**