

TOWN OF WESTON
P.O. BOX 98
WESTON, VT 05161-0098
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2020 7:30 PM

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

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC: Brad Doyle, Esther Fishman, Cherise Forbes, Kim Seymour and Natalie Boston

Denis Benson called to order at 7:30 PM

1. **Changes To The Agenda:** Portal Contract
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Solid Waste Implementation Plan:** Esther Fishman begins with a short introduction, where the plan covers in the area, explains that The Solid Waste Implementation Plan has to be written every 5 years. She goes on to summarize the plan by each section. Annie Fuji’i asks about composting. Esther explains that in The Solid Waste Law, Act 148, everyone including residents has to keep food out of the trash. Esther goes on to say that this is a draft to see if there’s any input from any of the areas Selectboards. Notes that Casella bought out **Tam waste management**, will honor the remainder of current contract but rates will go up. Planning on putting out a RFP for services and hoping to get some competition to get rates down. Good news, Esther is on a subcommittee for packaging so that the companies that produce packaging and sell in the state will become responsible for what happens (and paying for) at the end of use. Right now paying a lot for recycling because markets not doing well. People who produce packaging will be paying for that. Jim Linville Moves to accept the Solid Waste Plan, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
Annie Fuji’i on composting/scrap food, Notes it is mandatory yet a lot of people don’t know how to do it. Casella won’t pick up separately, so not compliant so don’t know what they are supposed to do. Older citizens are not complying and carrying on as always. Annie asks how it is being monitored or collected. Also notes Trout Club. Esther explains that Casella had been given a “pass” for one year, folks are to do backyard compost or get someone else to pick up and bring to the transfer station. Discussion on options to comply with new law, backyard composts and Charles Goodwin expresses concern for bears getting into them. Esther says that someone from the forest department came to last meeting and said he predicts it won’t be as big of an issue this year. Also says there are things you can do to keep bears away: putting a rag soaked in ammonia next to compost bin, or an electric wire around compost. Part of the area.
4. **Brad Doyle Medical Plans:** Brad Doyle begins by introducing himself, works for Cross Insurance who’s our group medical insurance brokers. Explains that the state of VT still only has 2 carriers for small groups: MVP and Blue Cross. This year saw a smaller

increase than last year in both. About 5% increase from MVP and about 6-7% with Blue Cross. MVP rates still the best in comparison of plans. Discussion and comparison of plans, comparing current Gold 3 HDHP vs. Reflective Silver HDHP (higher deductible and less premium). Jim Linville asks about the utilization of the deductible. Discussion on utilization and note of 2020 being unusual circumstances. Denis Benson says that with the state of and the uncertainty he is inclined to stay with what we have. All agree. Denis Benson makes a motion to stay with MVP's Gold 3 HDHP, Annie Fuji'i 2nd.

Unanimously approved.

5. **2022 Better Roads Grant:** Denis Benson says he had heard from Almon Crandall and it appears there will be no grants for next year. Problematic with the Culvert project. Table till next meeting with Almon Crandall (road Forman). Annie Fuji'i makes a motion to table until next meeting (November 10th) to discuss with Almon Crandall, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
6. **DVCUD, DVFiber 2020 Annual Report:** Jim Linville begins by saying that spoke with Rusty Davis, both skeptical on the pace of the work; it appears that nothing much is happening. They are applying for grants (pole study) and the town of Weston's application to join had been accepted at their last meeting. Denis Benson asks about something he had heard on the news as an option for internet. **SpaceX** launching several rockets to disperse satellites and with those will bring internet. Asks Jim if he had heard anything about that. Jim Linville says that he believes it would be HughesNet but doesn't know much about it. When weather is bad it doesn't work as well but doesn't know much more than that. Charles Goodwin states to have the minutes reflect that the Selectboard received the 2020 Annual Report and reviewed. Charles goes on to say there's nothing to lose with this, agrees that shouldn't hold our breath but that the town of Weston is in pretty good shape. Jim Linville notes that second home owners are spending more time or moving into the state. With that the landscape is changing really fast for internet providers, keep a "finger in every pie". Annie Fuji'i asks about having a meeting, to bring Comcast and etc., to see what the options really are. Discussion on the possibility to have someone from Comcast come to a meeting to explain and say what peoples options really are (say one thing one minute and changes the next). Annie Fuji'i believes that there is more weight to have come from the Selectboard instead of individual citizens. Jim Linville says he will speak with his neighbor who has a lot of experience on this and work on this possibility. Annie Fuji'i says she would like to try, on camera, on the record and thinks it is worth it.
7. **Review and Approve Minutes 10/13/2020:** Note to remove a question in the minutes on a possible number correction. Charles Goodwin makes a motion to approve the minutes with that removed, Annie Fuji'i 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
8. **SO # 23 Payroll:** Jim Linville makes a motion to approve SO # 23 Payroll for the amount of \$8,811.24, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
SO #23 Vendors: Bruce Downer makes a motion to approve SO #23 Vendors for the amount of \$226,568.73, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.* Jim Linville asks Kim Seymour if she and Charles Goodwin were able to take care of the special fund from the last meeting. Kim Seymour confirms yes.
9. **Old/New Business:** Agreement for portal grant: Annie Fuji'i makes a motion to authorize Kim Seymour to sign, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
Jim Linville says that he spoke with Mike Savage who is doing work for **Mike**

Beckmen and he has a 20 kw generator to donate to The Little School. It's a couple years old but in good condition, doesn't know more. Jim will talk on Monday on how to get off the property, buy/rent a trailer. Will be a temporary unit, on a trailer can be moved in the case of a flood. With money saved from a generator being donated, Jim Linville would like to advocate for proceeding with getting a survey done. Believes should have a more detailed and specific request as well as getting another surveyor quote as well. Jim Linville makes a motion to proceed to get bids from 2 surveyors, Charles Goodwin 2nd. Denis Benson asks about putting behind the Town Office up on pillars. Discussion on that and other possible spots. Bruce Downer and Annie Fuji'i both agree with Jim Linville. Annie Fuji'I makes a motion to proceed to get survey done to know boundaries and elevation. Jim Linville 2nd. *Yay: Jim Linville, Charles Goodwin, Annie Fuji'i and Bruce Downer. Nay: Denis Benson. **Motion Carries.***

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:45 PM

Weston Selectboard:

Denis Benson, Chair

Jim Linville, Vice Chair

Anne Fuji'i, Secretary

Bruce Downer

Charles Goodwin