

**TOWN OF WESTON**  
**P.O. BOX 98**  
**WESTON, VT 05161-0098**  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 26, 2020 7:30 PM**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**PUBLIC:** Kim Seymour, Natalie Boston, Deborah Granquist

Denis Benson called to order: 7:34 PM

- 1) **Changes to the Agenda:** Added Sign TAN Note to #10
- 2) **Public Comment:** None
- 3) **Generator for The Little School/Town Office:** Jim Linville has been in contact with Adam Hawkman about the electric wiring. Jim Linville, Mike Savage, and Charles Goodwin had a meeting with him last fall. Power will go through The Little School basement and then up to The Little School and over to The Town Office. Adam needs more details (Heat Pumps) he will need to go over. Jim Linville makes a Motion for Denis Benson to sign the zoning permit, Charles Goodwin 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
- 4) **The Little School Roof Repair:** Natalie is still waiting on quotes from Tyrrell's Enterprises
- 5) **House Moving Project (John Coughlin):** Annie Fuji'i will be attending as she is also on ZBA but believes no conflict of interest. Denis Benson notes that they should be sure to use rubber tire mats when loading and unloading. Pavement will be fresh and do not want damage done to it.
- 6) **Weston Emergency Management Coordinator:** Jim Linville and Natalie Boston have been discussing. Birgit Sutter- Davis mentioned to Jim Linville that the EMC position is a paid one in Londonderry. Asked Natalie Boston if she would take paid position with the understanding that she can step down anytime with no hard feelings. Jim Linville makes a motion to have Natalie Boston cover the position as a paid one at her regular pay rate, Annie Fuji'i 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
- 7) **CAI Contract Renewal:** Last meeting it didn't get voted on signature but funds had been approved and mailed out. Kim Seymour said was signed by Denis Benson. Charles Goodwin makes motion confirm the action, Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
- 8) **Review and Approve Minutes May 12, 2020:** Charles Goodwin notes correction to #4 and a correction on name spelling. Natalie Boston will correct. Charles Goodwin makes a motion to approve, Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*

9) **SO #11 Payroll, SO #11 Vendors:** Bruce Downer makes motion to approve payroll SO #11 for the amount of: \$6428.85, Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*

i) Charles Goodwin makes a motion to approve Vendors SO #11 for the amount of \$964,922.90, Annie Fuij'i 2<sup>nd</sup>. Denis Benson, surprised by amount, questions if the library ramp job (\$10,000 deposit, \$24,000 estimate) went out to bid. Jim Linville states he does not believe it did. Denis Benson says that he is not comfortable without going to bid: A lot of money. Jim Linville had spoken with Deborah Granquist, said it had not gone out to bid but comfortable with Ron Prouty's quote (Joanne Prouty on board). \$44,000 in reserved funds: not new money. If decide to put out to bid now will be hard to get bids and choose contractor before paving on Lawrence Hill. Jim Linville agrees \$24,000 is a big number, need to get job done before paving, new handicap ramp will join paving in a consistent way. Wonders is approve \$10,000, tell board concerned with total estimate, see if Ron Prouty can reduce the number. Annie Fuiji'i notes that if there is a policy to require bids, hard to waive if unknown if others can do the job before the paving. Have a general practice of competitive bidding. Charles Goodwin brings up Culvert on Chester Mt. rd. and Denis Benson says they received 2-3 quotes on the job. That was an emergency situation where this is not: not a fair comparison. Denis Benson requests Deb Granquist be called to join and discuss. Deborah Granquist joined meeting. Denis Benson asks her if the Handicap Ramp job went out to bid and notes this is town money. Deborah Granquist says she is caught a bit off guard, been in the works for 2 years. Because small job, trying to find bids was difficult, happy to get a bid at all so went with that. Difficult to recall. Denis Benson notes that it is a lot of money for a ramp and questions how much for The Little School Ramp. Kim Seymour says they received a grant so was not an expense. Charles Goodwin does not recall amount but thinks it is not a good comparison as this ramp may require more than just cement: not same construction. Annie Fuij'i wonders if the concern is the actual cost or that should have comparative prices/ bids. Deborah Granquist says they did not put to bid per advice by Ron Prouty. Understanding that it was a small job so getting any bids would be difficult. She notes that it was supposed to be done in the fall but was too wet so postponed to early spring, pushed back more due to Covid-19. Annie Fuij'i believes the decision that needs to be made is do they inforce their policy or do in timely manner due to paving time constraint. Denis Benson notes that if they put out to bid it will *not* be done in time. He also notes that the job was supposed to be done last fall and didn't go out to bid, no time constraint. Deborah Granquist apologizes and says she was under the impression that it did not need to go out to bid, not intended to do inappropriately. Denis Benson says that he is not happy with how it was handled. Jim Linville has been comfortable with Ron Prouty without going to bid.

He is happy to get back to Ron to see about reducing cost and notes that Deborah Granquist should not “shoulder” the blame. Back and forth on cost vs. policy. Annie Fuij’i notes strange times and to “stick to basics”: accept or go to bid? Charles Goodwin notes that discussion started with the fact it seemed like a lot of money but have voted on amounts of funds to be available for the Library, does provide “envelope” to not follow guide to bid. Deborah Granquist notes these are difficult times: supposed to be done in fall, moved to ASAP early spring (April 30<sup>th</sup>), no construction was allowed and other jobs got backed up. She will be in touch with Ron Prouty tomorrow on starting time (should have been started already) and apologizes again for misunderstanding. Bruce Downer raises question if the Selectboard has a responsibility to put out to bid: need to protect town. Discussion on policy similar to this worked on earlier this year. Charles Goodwin notes that can have a policy if wanted but that it will be broken in the best interest of the people of Weston. Deborah Granquist says the library will do whatever the Selectboard wants, not here to fight. Jim Linville calls the motion understanding that *if approve pay order we approve Ron Prouty bid. Ya: Annie Fuij’i, Charles Goodwin and Jim Linville. Na: Denis Benson and Bruce Downer. Motion Passes.* Deborah Granquist leaves meeting.

**10) Old/New Business:**

- a) TAN note: need 3 signatures. Jim Linville makes motion to sign the TAN Note and also says he can sign. All Selectboard members say can come in to sign. Charles Goodwin 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Unanimously approved.*
- b) Charles Goodwin makes motion to send a letter to the Library explaining tonight’s conversation, building belongs to town and appropriate/policy to get additional bids. Annie Fuij’i suggests sending to The Little School as well. Jim Linville says there is a 3 bid policy, he and Natalie Boston will work on letter to go to both the Library and The Little School tomorrow to clarify this policy. Jim Linville 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. *Unanimously approved.*
- c) Denis Benson requests a copy of sidewalk report. Jim Linville understands he wants the scoping study done last fall(speed survey), project has been put on hold due to Covid-19, no report yet and won’t be for a while. Jim Linville has speed survey in files, will copy and send to all who would want it. Bruce Downer aware speed cart is not working and has notified Mark Pickering. Charles Goodwin says would be best to wait to move till working again. Jim Linville says it should be fixed and leave there a week, then turn, then move to other end of town. Jim Linville says it may not be working but has noticed people are slowing down when following into town.
- d) Denis Benson questions if should have next meeting in office due to many glitches with computers tonight. Decided to wait a week and see if there are changes before

making a decision. Denis Benson says he feels that this time next month whole country will be in anarchy.

**Adjourn: 8:54 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