

TOWN OF WESTON

P.O. BOX 98

WESTON, VT 05161

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 16th 2024 at 7:30pm

Present: Denis Benson, Jim Linville, Lisa Yrsha

Zoom: Charles Goodwin, Annie Fuji'i, Anthony Knox, VNH and William Greer

Public: Shawna Batogowski, Kim Seymour, Jessica Clapp and Linda Saarnijoki

Denis Benson calls the meeting to order 7:28pm

1. **Road Foreman:** Almon Crandall was out plowing for the Town and did not make it to the meeting.
2. **Changes to the Agenda:** Payroll and Vendor payments are on agenda in error.
3. **Review and approve meeting minutes:** Reviewed and approved.
4. **Public Comment:** William Greer joined the meeting and shared that the bill for banning the sale of flavored tobacco in Vermont had passed in the Vermont Senate and was now in the House and was expected to about 2 or

3 weeks there. Jim Linville moves that the Town supports this Bill S.18 to ban the sale of menthol and flavored tobacco. Lisa Yrsha seconded and was approved unanimously.

Anthony Knox from Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire joined the meeting to speak about the appropriations the Town gives to the VNH. Mr. Knox stated that due to a staffing shortage, the Town of Weston is only receiving 3 out of the 4 programs that the VNH offers. The VNH cannot offer visiting nurses to the Town at this point but it is their goals to add more staff and have Weston receive all the programs offered. Jim Linville moved to give the VNH \$1,500 for the 2024 year and we will revisit the full asking amount in the coming years if Weston is receiving all the services offered. Lisa Yrsha seconded and was approved unanimously.

5. **Boundary Lot Adjustment: Wilder Memorial Library.** Linda Saarnijoki and Jessica Clapp attended the meeting asking for the Town's approval to expand the southern boundary of the Library's lot by 10 feet to the south. This added plot of land will help with the renovation and expansion of the existing library building. Happy Clouds Vermont, LLC will donate the land and the Capital Campaign will pay for any legal costs associated with the adjustment. Jim Linville moved support the boundary lot adjustment as subject to the Library having all the correct documents and permits filed with the all parties involved. Charles Goodwin seconded and was approved unanimously.

6. **Motion to Establish and Weston Flood Resilience Committee:** Jim Linville moved to appoint members to an official group to be known as the "Weston Flood Resilience Committee" to guide the Selectboard in spending

the \$50,000 Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) grant, awarded in December of 2023.

The purpose to the MTAP grant is to contract with a professional consultant to help bring funds into Weston to maximize the flood resilience of the Village and the Route 100 corridor. The committee membership will always include two Selectboard Members and at least one Planning Commission Member. This committee will be subject to the open meeting law requirements. Lisa Yrsha seconded and was approved unanimously.

- 7. Windham Reginal Commission: Appointment** Denis Benson and Charles Goodwin had an interview with Kara Halpern about being the second representative for Windham Reginal Commission. Denis Benson moved to invite Kara Halpern to be the Representative. Jim Linville Seconded and was approved unanimously. Shawna Batogowski will follow up with an appointment letter.
- 8. 2024 Mileage Certificate for Weston:** After speaking with Road Foreman Almon Crandall, it was confirmed that there was no changes to the mileage for the Town and the form was signed and will be sent to the State.
- 9. Sullivan, Powers & CO., P.C.: Audit** Jim Linville moves to sign the letter of engagement. Lisa Yrsha seconded it and was unanimously approved. The Audit will start on February 20th, 2024.
- 10. Buyout Forms: (Norman Hart).** Jim Linville signed the forms submitted by Norman Hart to start the buyout program for his property. Shawna Batogowski will forward signed copies to the Vermont Emergency Department.

11.Delinquent Tax Report: The report was seen and reviewed.

12.SO#1 Payroll and SO #1 Vendor: On Agenda in error.

13.New and Old Business: Denis Benson stated that he feels the Selectboard made an error in signing the Interlocal Recreation Agreement so quickly. He stated he that it concerns him that there are no typed out names or dates on the contract. He says it is conflict of interest that 3 out of the 5 Towns who signed the agreement have the same lawyer. He would like to make it clear that he felt like the Selectboard was bulldozed by a large group at the meeting and that the Selectboard caved and signed a agreement. Annie Fuji'i stated that she is in agreement with signing the contract and felt that she did what the Selectboard agreed to do. Jim Linville stated that he felt the same and that after checking with counsel it was okay to sign the original contract for the Interlocal Recreational Director Agreement. Charles Goodwin stated that he also agrees and that he thinks any further issues should be addressed at Town Meeting. It was agreed that the Interlocal Recreation Director signed by the Town will be posted on the Town Website. Shawna Batogowski will post the agreement.

Kim Seymour would like to revisit and ask the Selectboard to get rid of the extra pay weeks that fall in the year. Jim Linville moved to have the Town Payroll have 24 weeks and discontinued the third pay week that sometimes occurs. Denis Benson seconded and unanimously approved.

Kim Seymour also stated that she had reached out for quotes for IT support and the one that she found was \$760 a month. Kim mentioned that the SPAM fund would be a place to look at for payment of this service. She

stated that she is still doing research other companies. She said that she has been the "IT" and it is now becoming very complicated with technology moving so fast.

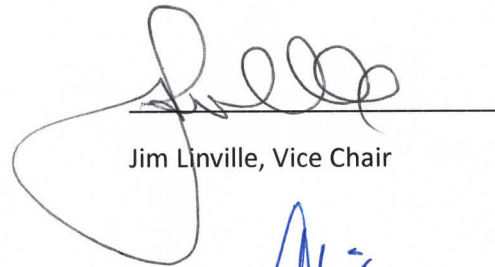
Lisa Yrsha gave an update on FEMA and said she is still working on submitting all the data required for FEMA relief. FEMA is proving to be VERY detail oriented asking for GPS coordinates, size of engine of trucks, and where they were parked during road repairs and including before and after photos of everything. Jim Linville suggested calling our State Reps and just letting them know what a trying process this has been. Lisa Yrsha agreed that would be a good idea to call.

It was brought up that the Town of Weston has no Emergency Management Director or Assistant Emergency Director. The Town would like to get these spots filled.

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Denis Benson 8:50pm

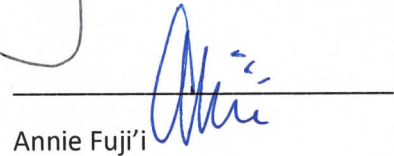


Denis Benson, Chair

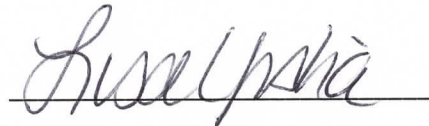


Jim Linville, Vice Chair

Charles Goodwin



Annie Fuji'i



Lisa Yrsha