TOWN OF WESTON

WESTON, VT 05161

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 20th, 2023 @ 7:30pm

Present: Denis Benson, Jim Linville and Lisa Yrsha

Zoom: Charles Goodwin, William Greer

Absent: Annie Fuji’i

Public: Shawna Batogowski, Stacey Fedele, Almon Crandall and Kim Seymour

1. **Changes or Additions to Agenda**: Road Foreman Almon Crandall was here to report on the status of the new truck. He said that the truck is in Vermont and needs to have the plow and wing put on. Almon said the new truck is red and not yellow. Almon stated that the roads in town are muddy from all the rain on Monday the 18th. He said that they have been using gravel to help with the mud.
2. **Review and approve meeting minutes**: Jim Linville moved to approve minutes for November 28th, 2023. Lisa Yrsha seconded, unanimously approved.
3. Public Comment: None
4. **Flavored Tobacco products:** William Greer joined us on zoom. William would like the Town to sign a petition to stop the sale of flavored tobacco products in the state of Vermont. He stated that Vermont does have a high rate of these products. Tim Goodwin and Jim Linville asked to see a copy of the Bill that will be voted on and William agreed to send that info to Shawna Batogowski and she will forward the Bill to them.
5. **FEMA Buyouts Needing Selectboard Support**: Stacey Fedele joined the meeting to have 2 forms signed and 1 notarized. Jim Linville signed the forms and stated that the Town currently supports her and will start the process to move forward. Jim Linville stated that he had spoken with Brian McWalters from VEM (Vermont Emergency Management) and gathered more information on what is expected of the Town with the Buyouts. Jim stated that after collecting all the information with hydro study on the dam and the hydraulic capacity of the bridge on Lawrence Hill road in the summer the Town and property owners may have a different view on whether the buyout is the best course of action. Jim Linville moved to sign the FEMA Deed Restriction form and Lisa Yrsha seconded the motion, unanimously approved. Shawna Batogowski will send the forms to Brian McWalters.
6. **Conservation Commission**:
7. **Computer Software:** Kim Seymour stated that she had purchased Microsoft Outlook for the Town by error. The Town Office computers need Microsoft Office. The Town will receive a credit of $1,395.00. Kim said that we will need to get the correct software and there are two ways to do this, the first is buying it through Microsoft and sign up for monthly fees for all nine office computers. The second is to buy the system “in a box” and install them on each computer and avoid monthly fees. If we do purchase Microsoft office and install it, we will not have automatic updates after a few years. Kim also stated that the refund we will receive and the purchase for the system will not hit the 2023 budget it will have to go in the 2024 budget. Jim Linville moved to Purchase the Box of Microsoft Office and install it ourselves, Tim Goodwin seconded and approved unanimously.
8. **Grant Agreement# GA0465: Amendment #1 Grant # GA0465** needs a signature for a time extension. Dennis Benson signed the time extension and Shawna Batogowski will send the form in to the State.
9. **Highway Surplus to Equipment fund**: Kim Seymour says that the Highway Fund has a surplus. Kim Seymour recommends moving $190,000.00 of that surplus to the Highway Equipment fund. She said this would help with covering the cost of the new Town truck. Jim Linville moved to transfer $190,000.00 from the Highway Fund to the Highway Equipment fund, consistent with the recommendation of the Town Treasurer, Kim Seymour. Lisa Yrsha seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
10. **Delinquent Tax Report**: Delinquent Tax report reviewed and approved.
11. **SO#27C Vendors:** Signature was required for a duplicate name error on SO#27 payroll. After discussion of the work and materials it was agreed to pay SO# 27C Gurney Brothers $63,972.35, $10,000.00 less the invoice amount. Jim Linville moved to approve SO#27C, Lisa Yrsha seconded, unanimously approved.
12. **New And Old business**: Lisa Yrsha did a FEMA update. She stated that she is still working on entering all the data from the roads into the correct FEMA models, which is tedious and time-consuming. She is happy to report that the Town of Weston took on the model of “start to finish” category C with FEMA which does make it slightly easier to submit. She thinks that she has over “300 hours into this” FEMA recovery submitting effort. She stated that she will follow through and get this done for the Town. She is working with the Fire Department and The Little School and submitting claims for them as well as they pertain to the Town only, not the nonprofit claims themselves.

Denis Benson reported that he had been at The Little School and noted a few things that will need to be done in their basement. We have a list of items that need to be addressed such as the sump pumps, dehumidifier, new door, generator and having an electrician come and fix some things in the basement of The Little School. Lisa Yrsha said that she would help get some of the list items submitted to FEMA and Insurance.

In closing Denis Benson announced that he no longer wished to be Selectboard Chair and will resign from the appointment. He stated that he feels the Interlocal Recreation Director agreement should not have been signed. He felt that it should have been signed at a selectboard meeting and feels that members of the Selectboard went behind his back in having it signed.

Jim Linville took over the meeting and adjourned at 9:30pm

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Denis Benson Jim Linville, Vice Chair

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Charles Goodwin Lisa Yrsha

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Annie Fuji’i