**TOWN OF WESTON**

**P.O. BOX 98**

**WESTON, VT 05161**

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**August 24, 2021 at 7:30 PM**

**Present**: Denis Benson, Jim Linville, Charles Goodwin, and Ann Fuji’i.

**Absent:** Bruce Downer

**Public:** Will Goodwin, Greg Carroll, Kim Seymour, and Natalie Boston

**Chairman Denis Benson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.**

1. **Changes or Additions to The Agenda:** Denis Benson notes will go into executive session to discuss land purchase. Also notes a signature for Grants in Aid FY22 and Animal Control. Will Goodwin also notes wanting to discuss Zoning enforcement.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Will Goodwin**: Will Goodwin begins by saying that he wants to re-do different forms and applications to make data entry easier, suggests writing up a draft for their approval. The whole Board agrees. Will goes on to discuss a grant for rewriting Weston’s zoning bylaws. He says can start anytime and that it will be submitted in September. Jim Linville asks are there any other grants for this work and Will says yes but for very specific zoning aspects. Discussion on how much to apply for and what had been the suggested amount. Charles Goodwin suggests applying for a high amount in hopes to get half. Will Goodwin continues to discuss zoning enforcement. Will mentioned several persons he sees as being non-compliant with existing regulations. Discussion on all. Annie Fuji’i asks what has been done up to this point. Will Goodwin says he has sent letters to all but no response. Annie Fuji’i is in favor of having a conversation with all, seeing their intentions, not just letters. Discussion on small businesses and commercial properties in town. Discussion on limits of a home business (number of employees). Denis Benson remarks that changes in the zoning bylaws will be coming so holding off enforcement action beyond written notices might make sense. Jim Linville suggests we should delay enforcement until new changes are in place. Tim Goodwin makes a motion to wait on any legal action but have conversations with all parties and get intent and plans from them. Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
4. **Municipal Mitigation Grants in Aid FY22:** Jim Linville makes a motion for Denis Benson to Sign, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
5. **Animal Control:** Discussion on needing to find someone for the Animal Control position. No one can think of someone locally. Denis Benson notes Patric Salo in Bondville is an animal control professional who provides services to some nearby towns. Donald Hart suggests that we check with Londonderry who has worked with Salo in the past. Denis Benson suggests sending Salo a letter to inquire about his services as well as check with other surrounding towns. Natalie will take care of that.
6. **Listers:** Greg Carrol reports that the listers have been looking at 3 different programs: Proval, Patriot, and Vision. Greg says that Dan **Hanenberg spoke with the head of Patriot, who reported that they are busy until 2025. Vision has not gotten back to them yet. The listers will evaluate the three programs and present their findings. Discussion on reappraisal time line as well as discussion with Sy Bailey being adamant about reappraisal as far as fairness to home owners. Greg reported that in the one year period between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 there have been 30 sales, 13 of to Weston residents and 17 to non residents. Greg also mentioned improvements to properties that are not reflected in the current appraisals.. Jim Linville notes from his recollection on the grand list about ½ of properties are 2nd homes and ½ are residences but that 30-40% of the Grand List is comprised of homesteads while 60-70% is second homes.**

**Greg notes the following trend in sales (as compared to 30 sales in the most recent year):**
**2019-2020: 19 Sales 2018-2019 = 22 Sales 2017-2018 = 16 Sales**
**Greg points out that Weston has a total of 633 Properties. Of those, 24 are commercial, and approximately 100 are woodland and 500 residences. Greg points out that a number of properties have combined lots, further complicating the current appraisals and highlighting the need for a reappraisal. Charles Goodwin asks about the 3 programs’ protocol for converting or transferring data. Greg says yes, always a concern of losing history, any conversion is tough but as long as the data is entered correctly a conversion should be fine. Charles Goodwin asks if the Listers have one program they prefer. Greg says they all seem about the same, they currently use Proval and are used to it, but will report on their findings when they have evaluated all three. Other issues with the include Mapping and CAI, which may never be resolved as various surveys sometimes show conflicting boundaries.**

1. **Speed Sign Survey Results So Far:** Denis Benson moves to table until tax bills are all in to gather all responses. Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
2. **Review and Approve Minutes: Jim Linville Moves to approve the minutes for 8/10/2021, Annie Fuji’i 2nd.** *Unanimously approved.*
3. **SO #18 Payroll, SO #18 Vendors: Charles Goodwin moves to approve SO #18 Payroll for the amount of $7,421.42, Jim Linville 2nd.** *Unanimously approved.*Jim Linville moves to approve SO #18 Vendors for the amount of $22,030.04, Annie Fuji’i 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
4. **New/Old Business: Jim Linville says he spoke to Merrill Bent about the transfer of an ongoing site plan review to the DRB from the ZBA. Merrill suggested getting approvals from all of the parties, including the appellant, the adjoining landowners, the public who attended the preliminary hearings, the PC and the DRB. If all parties agree, then perhaps such a transfer can be accomplished. He will pursue that.**

**Denis Benson asks Jim Linville about land sale and Jim says he didn’t get to it yet.**
**Denis Benson brings up Michael Smilovich decline reappointment to the EMD position. The Board asks Natalie Boston if she would take the position. Natalie will think about it and come back to them with a decision.**

**Jim Linville moves to go into executive session in regards to Personnel in accordance with 1 VSA 313(a)(2), Annie Fuji’i 2nd. *Unanimously approved.***

**The Selectboard goes into executive session at 8:41 PM**

**The Selectboard comes out of executive session at 8:51 PM, no motions are made.**

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

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:52 PM**

Weston Selectboard:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Denis Benson, Chair Jim Linville, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Anne Fuji’i, Secretary Bruce Downer

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Charles Goodwin