

2014-3-17

Windham Select Board

Regular Meeting

March 17, 2014

Present: Mary Boyer Chair

Frank Seawright Selectman

Kord Scott Selectman

Peter Chamberlain Town Treasurer

Bill Roberts Road Foreman

Alison Trowbridge Clerk

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Mary Boyer.

Road Foreman Report:

Town Meeting Follow-up, Road Maintenance Suggestions: The Board discussed some concerns raised by participants at Town Meeting regarding the roads including, idling town highway vehicles at the garage, salt reduction, Whiter Road repaving and the Board running the roads like a business. Kord will draft a Selectboard response letter to the concerns.

Town Highway Committee: The Board discussed with Bill the idea of creating a Town Highway Committee comprised of residents in Town who have shown interest in the Town's roads.

Sand and Salt: Bill reported that they ordered salt, enough to carry through to the end of the season. He also said that they try to fill the sand shed in June because that gives the sand time to dry before it's needed, reducing the amount of salt they add to it to prevent freezing.

Speed Zones: Hearing date for the new 35 mph speed limit for Windham Hill Road will be set for after the Board meets with Dana Shepherd, the Deputy Sheriff who is covering Windham. Lowering speed limits on Rt. 121 and some of the gravel roads was also discussed. There would need to be traffic studies done before this could happen.

Town Highway Department Equipment: Bill was given the go-ahead to buy a new welder.

The compressor from Winhall may not be available and Kord will work with Bill to research other options. The grader needs new carbide bits. They were last replaced three years ago and this is their expected lifespan. The cost for them was \$3,000 when they were last done.

Paving: No paving estimates need to be done until later in the year when the frost heaves have settled and tax money starts to come in (mid-August.)

Structures Grant: The Town will revisit this with John Alexander later in the spring to see about funding for bridge and culvert projects.

End of Road Foreman Report

Draft Selectboard Rules of Procedure: The Board reviewed the VLCT Draft Selectboard Rules of Procedure (see attached). Frank made a motion to approve the Rules of procedure with the addition of a rule that would eliminate the need to second motions made by the Board. Kord seconded (the last one) and the Board voted all in favor.

Minutes of 3/3/14: Mary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The Board voted all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Expenditures Ahead: Peter reported that there is approximately \$692,000 in the Town bank account and there are State education bills coming up in the spring totaling approximately \$450,000 along with a grader payment, about \$18,000 and a school start up payment in August of about \$30,000. He urged caution in expenditures.

Road Crew Winter Hours: Peter asked the Board to consider going back to the old system of winter hours where the road crew was paid for 40 hours/week and worked on an as-needed basis. He thought this would save the town overtime money and heating costs for the garage.

Transitioning to Numbered Accounting System: Kathy Scott has gotten this change underway.

Fire Truck Ordering Process: Peter handed out a brief outline of the process the Wardsboro Fire Company used to order their fire truck from the Pierce Fire Truck Company. The Board noted that there is a national and state-wide trend to consolidate fire companies. There has been no mention of this from the Windham Fire Company.

End of Treasurer's Report

Election Officials: Mary made a motion that with the new budget, election officials for

Town Meeting would not be paid by the Town. Election officials who worked Town meeting who feel they were not sufficiently forewarned of this change will be paid this one time. The Board voted all in favor.

Wade Measure Meeting: The Board discussed setting up a meeting with Wade Measure of VLCT PACIF, to occur on a Wednesday morning with the Listers, Marcia Clinton (Town Health Officer) and the Road Crew. The focus would be increasing safety awareness to work towards lowering the Town's insurance rates.

Windham County Sheriff Meeting: Alison will schedule Dana Shepherd to come to the April 7, Board meeting at 7pm.

Town Appointments: Kord added his signature to the re-appointment forms for Town-Appointed positions for 2014. Mary and Frank had signed them on 3/3/14.

Road Grants: The Board reviewed Town eligibility requirements for grant money including adopting the most recent road & bridge standards, adopting a flood hazard bylaw through NFIP, adopting a hazard mitigation plan and local emergency management plan.

Highway Committee: The Board discussed creating a committee of residents who have brought up concerns about the roads. Possible committee members mentioned: Margaret Dwyer, John Lingley, Ken Grimm, Ralph Wyman, Paul Wyman, Pete Newton, the Town Road Crew and Kord Scott.

Tax Abatement Protocol: The Protocol developed by Bob Fisher was amended to not require reading of the entire tax abatement legislation and instead to only read the sections pertinent to the abatement requests being considered at that particular abatement proceeding

Mail/ Signatures: The Board reviewed mail, and signed pay orders.

Heavy Weight Permits: The Board reviewed Heavy Weight Permit applications from Tatro Construction, Gurney Brothers, David Chaves and Camp Precast Concrete. The Camp Precast Concrete application was set aside pending Kord checking in with John Alexander regarding establishing a consistent weight limit.

Motion to Adjourn: Mary made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. The Board voted all in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30.

Date Approved _____ Town Clerk

For File:

Select Board Rules of Procedure

Zoning permit for McCaul

Report on Pierce Fire Truck Company