

Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2021 Regular Meeting

Present via Zoom web conference:

Maureen Bell, Selectboard Chair	Kord Scott, Selectman
Joyce Cumming, Selectboard Clerk	Russ Cumming, Lister
Tom Johnson, Energy Committee	Louise Johnson, Meeting House Committee
Kathy Jungermann, Auditor	Imme Maurath, Auditor
Pat McLaine	Barbara Jean Quinn
Kathy Scott, Treasurer	Gail Wyman, Asst. Treasurer

**Call to order**

Maureen announced the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Additions to Agenda/Announcements/Reminders**

There were no additions, announcements or reminders.

**Act on minutes from February 1 Regular Meeting**

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 Regular Selectboard Meeting as presented—moved by Maureen—Kord and Maureen in favor.

**Public Comment**

Russ commented that he would have liked to participate during the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting had he known that the legal invoice from Fisher & Fisher was slated for discussion. The topic was not included on the agenda but was discussed at length under public comment. Russ explained that he had dental surgery on the morning of February 1 followed by a lengthy School Board meeting in the afternoon. He noted that one of the topics Kord, Bill and Heath asked Atty. Fisher for clarification on was the discrepancy in the way Early Childhood Special Education and K-12 Special Education was reimbursed. Russ reached out to the Agency of Education and learned that there is no difference in the reimbursement rate between ECSE and K-12 special education costs for most school districts, but Windham's School Board had previously opted out of cost-sharing for Early Childhood Special Education. Therefore, Windham bears responsibility for 100% of ECSE costs it incurs, rather than a reduced rate of 2-3% of the cost as calculated by the percentage of Windham's Average Daily Membership (student count) to that of the Windham Central Supervisory Union. He noted that the Windham School Board's decision several years ago when it opted out of cost-sharing for ECSE was due to an effort to avoid sharing the cost of a residential placement for a student in another town.

Maureen explained that she was apprised that the topic would be discussed at the last meeting based on a request she received from Bill and Heath prior to the meeting. It was decided however to allow the discussion under public comment rather than as an agenda item.

Joyce noted that Bill and Heath spoke in detail about the timeline of events at the last meeting, including the conference call that Kord, Bill and Heath had with Attorney Fisher on February 28, 2020.

She asked why Russ was not included in that teleconference seeing as he was head of the Ad Hoc Committee at that point. Maureen explained that the Ad Hoc Committee was not a subcommittee of the Selectboard and she didn't have an explanation but offered to reach out to Bill and Heath for a response. Kathy S. suggested it may have been decided to handle it that way by the Ad Hoc Committee.

**Correspondence**

Maureen reported that no correspondence had been received.

**New Business:**

Maureen noted a change from what was originally planned in mailing ballots for Town Meeting. Registered voters do not need to request a ballot from the Town Clerk for the March 2 meeting; ballots were recently mailed to all registered voters in Windham based on action by the Selectboard at its last meeting. Voters have the option to return completed ballots by mail, in-person at the Town Office either during regular business hours or through the drop-box after hours, or at the polling place (Windham Meeting House) on March 2.

Maureen also noted that appointments for COVID vaccinations become available to the next age band (70 and older) as of Tuesday, February 16.

**Old Business:**

**Review for Town Meeting**

In moving to hold the 2021 Town Meeting by Australian ballot, an informational meeting must be warned and conducted in advance of Town Meeting date in order to allow for discussion of the items on the ballot. Maureen reported that the informational meeting, which is actually a meeting of the Selectboard, will be held via Zoom on February 20, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Mike has agreed to moderate the informational meeting even though it is a Selectboard meeting. Maureen noted that the candidates for elected offices are running uncontested. She contacted the candidates to determine if any would like the opportunity to speak at the informational meeting but none requested the chance to make a public statement.

Maureen anticipates that the informational meeting will follow the Town Meeting warning and allow for discussion on each article in turn. Maureen thanked Kathy J. for sharing some helpful information from Windsor re: participating in Zoom meetings. Vance has offered to help keep track of the order in which participants raise hands in order to allow each participant to speak in chronological order. Brief discussion followed on joining Zoom meetings via phone, laptop, iPad, etc. and the different methods for participants to raise their hands to ask a question or make a comment on the remote meeting platform. Maureen will include relevant information on how to participate as part of the agenda warning for the informational meeting. She will also explain participation instructions at the start of the meeting. Following brief discussion, Maureen also agreed to disseminate participation instructions via Mike and/or Ellen to share via list-serve. In response to a question from Kord about the number of participants allowed to join the meeting on Zoom, Maureen explained that her membership plan allows for an unlimited number of participants and an unlimited timeframe for meetings; however there is a limit to the recording time. This has not been a problem over the past 11 months since the video recording can be divided into segments if the meeting goes beyond the allowed recording time.

Maureen noted that meeting participants have the option to set up their individual screens based on personal preferences. Brief discussion followed on technology options such as using multiple monitors, scrolling through screens to see all meeting participants, copying and pasting the Zoom link, etc.

Maureen asked Kord to speak on State Aid for Transportation. Kord reported that he recently received word from Jeff Nugent of the Windham Regional Commission that VTrans has announced the final offers for FY21 Grants-in-Aid to participating Vermont towns (see attached). Most towns will see an increase in funding for FY21. Windham can expect an increase of \$1,530 from \$9,390 in FY20 to \$10,920 in FY21. Kord noted that the grants apply to Road Erosion Inventory work on hydrologically connected road segments which are particularly sensitive to run-off. In Windham's case, this is 15-20 miles. The Road Erosion Inventory is mandatory for all participating towns. The MRGP grant will require that Windham contributes a 20% local match in cash or in-kind services which can be road crew labor. Kord offered a clarification saying that the MRGP grant is separate from the State Aid for Transportation funding; the specific item was not listed on the agenda. (Based on the formula, Windham will be required to contribute \$2,730, or 20% of \$13,650. Grant amount of \$10,920 + 20% match of \$2,730 = \$13,650 for FY21 Municipal Roads Grants-in Aid Program.) Kathy noted the need to assign a code to identify and record expenses that qualify for this grant. Kathy requested a copy of the information Kord received; Joyce also requested a copy for the file.

#### **Payroll/Bills**

Maureen noted that the two check detail reports seemed to be in order. Kord had no questions or concerns re: the payroll and bills.

Motion: To approve payroll and bills presented for this meeting and authorize Kord to sign off on same—moved by Maureen—Kord and Maureen in favor.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the regular Selectboard meeting at 5:57 p.m.—moved by Kord—Maureen and Kord in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Cumming  
Selectboard Clerk

Attachment:

FY2021 Municipal Roads Grants in Aid Program Final Offer