

**Windham VT Selectboard Minutes
October 23, 2023 Special Meeting
Held on Zoom Only**

Present:

Kord Scott, selectboard chair
Michael Pelton, selectboard
George Dutton, selectboard
Mary McCoy (Mac),
selectboard clerk

Cathy Edgerly Fales
Russell Cumming
Bill Casey
Crystal Corriveau

Barbara Jean Quinn
Imme Maurath
Abby Pelton

1. Start Recording and Call to Order

Kord called the meeting to order and started the recording at 6:01 PM.

2. Additions/deletions and/or changes to agenda – Mac asked to add under New Business info and approval for sending a news release about ARPA funding. All agree to the addition.

3. Public Comments – Russell read a statement regarding the WES principal’s complaint at the last selectboard meeting. He denied her claim that she had felt attacked by the listers’ behavior. Russell questioned why she had been in the town office with the student who was with her. He then repeated a series of questions he had asked her about the status of the school, the health and driving situation of the other teacher, and her rating of the students. Russell said he had said nothing threatening to her. He said she knew the town was divided about the existence of the school, and she should not have been surprised by his questioning. Bill Casey said Russell was a “total gentleman.” He said he (Bill) had asked the principal how she would lower the costs of the school and what she thought of school choice, and she had left abruptly. Bill also said the selectboard should have muted the principal when she complained about the listers, as it was a “personal attack” on them.

4. Executive Session –

A) Under Title 1, Section 313 (3) of the Vermont Statutes – Evaluation of Public Officer or Employee – Chris Cummings was not present, so there was no executive session.

B) Take actions discussed in executive session (after exiting) – No action was taken.

5. New Business

A) Discuss and approve Meeting House range hood purchase – Cathy reported that as part preparing the AARP grant application, she had researched the possibility of purchasing an exhaust system for the kitchen stove that would allow its full use, including frying on the range top. She spoke with the fire marshal who recommended a vendor for the exhaust. Cathy contacted that vendor who had an exhaust hood that was just like what the marshal had recommended. It was \$3500, half the usual price, and it could be resold if it was not a perfect fit for us. Cathy said that if we receive the AARP grant, we can use part of it to pay for the hood’s installation. Kord reported that Tom Widger (head of the Meeting House Committee) and Pete Newton (head of the Friends of the Meeting House) were in favor of this purchase. Cathy said that many people had commented at the 9/23/23 “Brunch and Brainstorm” meeting that we needed a fully functional stove, which requires this hood.

Motion: To purchase the exhaust hood for the Meeting House. Kord moved, and all agreed.

Discussion followed regarding what account to use to pay the \$3500. ARPA? Meeting House M&I Fund? Other? George wondered if the vendor would continue to hold the hood without payment until we can decide.

Next Step: Discuss the payment at the next selectboard meeting in one week on 10/30/23.

B) Discuss news release about Windham's solar array and ARPA decisions – Mac said she and Cathy were working on a news release and wanted the selectboard's approval for this action. There was agreement to proceed with this.

Next Step: Once Mac and Cathy have completed the release, they will run it by Michael before sending it out to news services.

6. Payroll/Bills – Discussion/motions to approve pay order and to have Kord sign for SB

Motion: To approve the pay orders from the town treasurer. George moved, and all agreed.

Motion: To have Kord sign for the payments presented. George moved, and all agreed.

7. Adjourn regular meeting and stop recording

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:21PM. George moved, and all agreed.

**The next regular selectboard meeting is scheduled for
Monday, October 30, 2023 at 5:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoy (Mac), selectboard clerk
Approved October 30, 2023