

JOINT BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Rockingham Selectboard & Bellows Falls Village Trustees
Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Selectboard: Thomas MacPhee, Joshua Hearne, Ann DiBernardo (Absent: Susan Hammond & Peter Golec)

Trustees: Nancy McAuliffe, Colin James, Evelyn Weeks, Sanford Martin (Absent: Stefan Golec)

Also Present: Willis Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk; Mary Helen Hawthorne, BFDDA Executive Director; Attorney Ray Massucco; Douglas MacPhee; Andrew Smith; Steve Cenate; Wade Masure

Press: Joey Powers, FACT8; Joel Slutsky, The Shopper; Domenic Poli, Brattleboro Reformer

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Bellows Falls Village President Nancy McAuliffe.

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting: Stearns stated that he has one item for the Selectboard only. The Vermont Department of Health has contacted Selectboard Chair Thomas MacPhee and informed him that with the retirement of Health Officer Ellen Howard, the Selectboard Chair would assume these responsibilities unless the Board appoints someone by July 1.

Ann DiBernardo made the motion to recommend to the Vermont Department of Health that Willis D. Stearns, II be appointed as the Health Officer for the Town of Rockingham effective July 12, 2015. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed with Hearne, DiBernardo and MacPhee voting in favor of the motion. Stearns stated that this will be placed on the July 7, 2015 agenda for ratification.

Approve Minutes of April 28, 2015: *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2015 as printed. Motion was seconded by Sanford Martin. Motion passed unanimously.*

Public Comment on items not on the Agenda – 3 minutes per person:

- Douglas MacPhee noted that it appears that vehicles from Popolo's Restaurant are encroaching on the former Star Hotel property dedicated to the 2 fallen firefighters. MacPhee noted that he has spoken to the Bellows Falls Fire Chief and to the Municipal Manager and asked that steps be taken to protect this park.
- Andrew Smith stated he had 2 questions. First was when the lines would be painted on Rockingham Street. The second was that he noted that the wall adjacent to the Sunoco Station was leaning and asked who owned this. Stearns stated that the line painting would occur after the 4th of July holiday weather permitting. Stearns stated he will check into who owns the wall.

Agenda:

1. Board Training – Attorney Ray Massucco was present to give the Board its annual refresher on Board duties and responsibilities. Massucco stressed that the Board sets policy and establishes a budget and the Manager manages. Massucco also reminded the Board of the new open meeting law rules and public records requests. Massucco also encouraged the Board members not to use email, social media or texting as these all come under the open meeting law and public records law.
2. BFDDA Update – Mary Helen Hawthorne, Executive Director, was present and distributed an update on BFDDA's activities.
3. Golden Cross Ambulance Contract – requested by BF Trustees: Martin stated that during the Trustees budget process he was unclear about the role of the Bellows Falls Fire Department in connection with Golden Cross. Martin specifically wanted to know about the BFFD's role transports. Stearns stated that the BFFD does answer calls and is often the first to arrive on the scene. Stearns also noted that the BFFD will assist in a transport if there is an emergent situation and an additional qualified person is required. Steve Cenate, BFFD Deputy Chief was present and stated that the BFFD does not do transports but will assist if requested. Andrew Smith stated that he understands that this contract is a Town of Rockingham issue and noted that, in his opinion, the current contract had very little substance and urged the Selectboard to review this carefully when it comes time for renewal.
4. Finance Office
 - a) Set Tax Rate: Stearns noted that the Board had received an explanation of the tax rate in their packets and this would need a motion for each Board separately.

Ann DiBernardo made the motion to set the Town of Rockingham Municipal tax rate at .9496 and accept the Education tax rate of \$1.6075 for Homestead, and \$1.5350 for Non-Residential as provided by the Vermont Department of Taxes for Fiscal Year 2016. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed with DiBernardo, Hearne and MacPhee voting in favor of the motion.

Colin James made the motion to set the Bellows Falls Village Corporation Municipal tax rate at .6691 for Fiscal Year 2016. Motion was seconded by Sanford Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Board Items
 - a) Pension Resolution (Old Pension Plan): Stearns explained that this is the old pension plan for the Town & Village. Currently Town Clerk Doreen Aldrich is the only authorized signer on the account and has retired today and new signers need to be appointed before July 1, 2015.

Ann DiBernardo made the motion to name Municipal Manager Willis D. Stearns, II and Town Clerk Kathleen Neathawk as authorized signers for the old pension plan titled "Town of Rockingham and Bellows Falls Village Employee's Pension Plan". Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed with DiBernardo, Hearne and MacPhee voting in favor of the motion.

Colin James made the motion to name Municipal Manager Willis D. Stearns, II and Town Clerk Kathleen Neathawk as authorized signers for the old pension plan titled "Town of Rockingham and Bellows Falls Village Employee's Pension Plan". Motion was seconded by Evelyn Weeks. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session – Contract: *Joshua Hearne made the motion to find that premature public knowledge of contract negotiations will clearly place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing contract negotiation items. (1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1). Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed with Hearne, DiBernardo and MacPhee voting in favor of the motion.*

Joshua Hearne made the motion that the Selectboard enter executive session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations under provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont Statutes and invite Attorney Ray Massucco, Municipal Manager Willis Stearns, II, and HR Coordinator Kerry Bennett to attend. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed with Hearne, DiBernardo and MacPhee voting in favor of the motion.

Sanford Martin made the motion to find that premature public knowledge of contract negotiations will clearly place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing contract negotiation items. (1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1). Motion was seconded by Colin James. Motion passed unanimously.

Sanford Martin made the motion that the Selectboard enter executive session at 7:13 pm to discuss contract negotiations under provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont Statutes and invite Attorney Ray Massucco, Municipal Manager Willis Stearns, II, and HR Coordinator Kerry Bennett to attend. Motion was seconded by Colin James. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:00 p.m. No announcements were made.

Adjourn: *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Colin James. Motion passed unanimously.*

Attest: _____
Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk