

Bellows Falls Village Trustees Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Minutes

Present: Nancy McAuliffe, Evelyn Weeks, Stefan Golec
Absent: Colin James, Sanford Martin

Also Present: Willis D. Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Village Clerk; Deborah Wright; Hope & Joe Brissette; Barry Johnson

Press: Joey Powers, FACT8; Joel Slutsky, The Shopper

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

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting: None

Approve Minutes of June 9, 2015: *Stefan Golec made the motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2015 as printed. Motion was seconded by Evelyn Weeks. Motion passed unanimously.*

Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda: (3 minutes per person):

- Deborah Wright noted that in a 2007 agreement between the Town & the Village, the Town took over maintenance of the sidewalks. Wright noted that the sidewalk on Meadow Lane was removed during the water project construction and asked why this was done and why the Trustees were not consulted. Stearns stated that it was determined that this was an unused sidewalk and was therefore removed. Barry Johnson stated that the sidewalk is used a lot and asked who made that determination. Stearns stated that the Highway Superintendent had consulted with him on the decision. Golec stated that he was in favor of keeping the sidewalk. Stearns stated that he would discuss this with the Highway Superintendent.

Manager's Report: None

Agenda:

1. Discuss Cherry Hill One-Way Traffic: Golec noted that this was put on the agenda to discuss whether the section of Cherry Hill should remain one-way or return to two-way traffic. Golec did state he was concerned with winter maintenance, however. Weeks stated that she felt it could go back to two-way. Stearns reported that the structural engineer who made the determination a few years ago for the grant submission by the Town reviewed the wall again today and recommends that it remain as it is and that no further weight should be put on the wall. The engineer did state that the wall has moved since the first inspection. Stearns did state that the Town has re-applied for the structures grant for this project. It was the consensus of the Board to table this discussion at this time.
2. Updates
 - a) Update on 35 Front Street: Stearns reported that the carriage barn has been demolished and a lien placed on the property for asbestos testing, asbestos abatement and demolition.

- b) Update on 25 Hapgood Street: No change. The smell that was reported was investigated and nothing was found. The debris on the porch remains. It is anticipated that at some point this will become a health issue but it has not come to that yet.
 - c) Water Project: Stearns gave an update on the multiple water projects including Industrial Park area, Morgan's Field area, Henry Street, School Street, Hadley Street, Oak Street. Stearns also noted that the Rockingham Selectboard has approved funds to restructure and pave Henry Street.
 - d) Route 5 State Paving: Stearns stated that the project is scheduled to start on Monday, July 20 from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm 6 days per week. This will include inspection, repair and/or replacement of the 600+ structures in the road from the Westminster line to Pond Road. Stearns noted that he has informed the contractor of the Old Home Days activities on August 1.
3. Finance Office – C. Stearns
- a) FY2015 YTD Budget Status: Stearns stated that right now the Village is “sitting pretty” with a fund balance of approximately \$261,000. However, Stearns did note that we are not done booking expenses back to FY2015 yet.

McAuliffe asked about the logging revenue. Stearns stated that the revenue in logging was a deposit and the actual logging began yesterday and is expected to be completed by September 30.

McAuliffe asked about the water project expenses. Stearns explained the bond process for both the water and wastewater bonds. Stearns did bring to the Board's attention a revenue item of \$375,000 in the Wastewater budget for debt forgiveness on the RBC project.

Stearns also reported that the tax sale process would be resuming toward the end of August and urged delinquent taxpayers to come in to make an agreement. As well, new water bills will be going out in September and those delinquencies will also be addressed.

Overtime & Comp Time Reports: No comments.

Review Fire Dept & Police Dept Call Logs: Weeks noted that there were a lot of assists in the Fire Department log.

Review Agenda Items for Next Regular Trustees Meeting – August 11, 2015:

- FY2015 & FY2016 budget status
- Updates Water & Wastewater Projects
- Possible wastewater bond anticipation note for USDA

Review Agenda Items for Joint Board Meeting – September 29, 2015:

- Discuss Overnight Parking Lot Permit Policy

Approve Orders, Bills and Warrants: *Evelyn Weeks made the motion to approve the orders, bills and warrants as presented. Motion was seconded by Stefan Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

Other Business:

- Weeks asked about the reflective figure that used to be placed in the crosswalks and whether that could be done again. Stearns stated that these are \$600 each and usually only last about a week as they are run over immediately and destroyed.
- Weeks asked if there were signs at Minards Pond giving people notice that dogs are not allowed in the pond. Weeks stated that she has seen pictures on facebook of dogs in the pond. Stearns stated that there are signs and reminded everyone watching that dogs and humans are not allowed in the pond.
- Barry Johnson asked what the plans were for the YMCA building on Atkinson Street. Stearns stated that ownership of the building has changed and there are plans but he is not at liberty to speak about this.
- Stearns reminded the board members to read through the information section of their packets.

Executive Session: *Stefan Golec made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of contract negotiations will clearly place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage by revealing the negotiation of a contract. Motion was seconded by Evelyn Weeks. Motion passed unanimously.*

Stefan Golec made the motion that the Board enter into executive session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss a contract under provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion was seconded by Evelyn Weeks. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:26 p.m. No announcements were made.

Adjourn: *Stefan Golec made the motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Motion was seconded by Evelyn Weeks. Motion passed unanimously.*

Attest: _____
Kerry Bennett, Village Clerk