

ROCKINGHAM SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Present: Thomas MacPhee, Ann DiBernardo, Peter Golec

Absent: Susan Hammond, Joshua Hearne

Also Present: Willis Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk; Barb Joy, Assistant Town Clerk/Rockingham Christmas Fund Coordinator; Deb Witkus, Laura Shairbaum & Scott Sharland from Greater Falls Connection; Ryan Stoodley, Recreation Director

Press: Joey Powers, FACT8

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Thomas MacPhee.

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

Approve Minutes of October 6, 2015: *Peter Golec made the motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2015 as printed. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

- Laura Shairbaum, Deb Witkus & Scott Sharland were all present from Greater Falls Connection to present an “Active Community Engagement (A.C.E.) Award” to Recreation Director Ryan Stoodley. Shairbaum & Witkus both spoke about the contributions Stoodley has made to the community and consider him an excellent role model for the youth of the area. Stoodley thanked Greater Falls Connection for the recognition stating that he was “overwhelmed”. The Board congratulated Stoodley on his achievement.
- Barb Joy, Assistant Town Clerk, was present and stated that it has come to their attention that there is rumor that the Halloween decorating in the Town Clerk’s Office was done on Town time and with Town funds. Joy stated that the decorating was done after hours and that all decorations were paid for by her and Town Clerk Kathleen Neathawk.
- Joy, in her role as Rockingham Christmas Fund Coordinator, also extended an invitation to the Board to participate in the distribution of gifts to applicants on Friday, December 4 from 11:30 am to 6:00 pm at the St. Charles Education Center. Joy stated that the committee felt it would be a nice touch to know that this is a community program with the full support of the Selectboard. MacPhee thanked Joy on behalf of the Board for her many years of service to this extremely important endeavor.

Manager’s Report:

- Stearns stated also that the Bellows Falls “Adopt an Angel” program is accepting applications for its program and applications are available at the Bellows Falls Police Station.
- Stearns extended a congratulations to the Bellows Falls Union High School Field Hockey Team on their State Championship on Saturday.
- The Water Project for the Bellows Falls Village is nearly complete and the State paving project on Route 5 should be installing new signage and be done in the next few weeks.
- Averill’s Bridge in Saxtons River is complete with clean up occurring over the next few days.
- Parker Hill and Brockways Mill roads are being crack filled.

- Leaf & Lawn Debris Pick Up is ongoing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until snow flies.
- Stearns stated that there is a meeting on Thursday morning at 8:00 am on the water damage and termite damage on the Recreation Building. Stearns noted that 80% of the lower half of the building has now been exposed to try to formulate a plan to repair this.
- Stearns reported that the 9,630 gallons of fuel has been retrieved from the underground tank in the alley between Town Hall and People's United Bank that has apparently been in that tank for several years. Stearns stated that now that this is empty, there will be a meeting on Thursday morning at 10:00 am with People's United to formulate a plan to repair the alley, particularly the handicap access to Town Hall.
- Stearns reminded everyone that taxes are due on November 10.
- Stearns also noted that water shut offs will take place on November 9 in the Village and urged those who received a notice to contact the Finance Office to make payment arrangements.

Agenda:

1. Mutual Aid Agreement – Charlestown Police Chief Connors. Chief Connors was not in attendance and this item was tabled.
2. Bridge Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project – STP EH 10(22)
 - a) Reject Bids & Authorize Re-Bid of Project: Stearns noted that information was provided from Evan Detrick, PE of Dubois & King in the Board packets. Two bids were received, both exceeding the engineer's estimate and Detrick stated that he could not make a recommendation for a bid award at this time. Detrick advised that the Town should re-bid the project over the winter. *Peter Golec made the motion that the Rockingham Selectboard reject all bids received on the Rockingham STP EH 10(22) Bridge Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project and that this be re-bid over the 2015-2016 winter months. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*
3. Finance Office – Chip Stearns
 - a) FY2016 Budget Status Reports: Stearns reviewed the budget status and gave a brief explanation of line items either at budget, over budget, or items no longer being funded and asked if the Board had any further questions or concerns. MacPhee asked what the status was of the State Police Barracks property in Rockingham. Stearns stated that he is staying on top of this but it is his feeling that this property will go to the highest bidder.
 - b) Award bid for 3- ¾ ton trucks: Stearns directed the Board's attention to a memo distributed prior to the meeting. Stearns stated that bids were sent to 5 dealers and 2 were received from Springfield Automart and Shearer Chevrolet (State bid), and outlined the pros and cons of each bid. *Ann DiBernardo made the motion that the Rockingham Selectboard accept the bid from Shearer Chevrolet of \$118,846 and authorize the Municipal Manager to execute any and all documentation to secure this quote. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

- c) Award financing bid for trucks: Stearns noted that quotes were solicited from 4 banks for financing of the above highway equipment for \$120,000 over 3 years – Merchants Bank 1.55% fixed; People’s United 1.65% fixed, Mascoma Bank 2.125% fixed, and TD Bank no bid. Stearns recommends that the Board award the financing to Merchants Bank. *Peter Golec made the motion that the financing be awarded to Merchants Bank for \$120,000 at 1.55% fixed for 3 years and request that Merchants Bank prepare the loan documentation to be signed at the December 1, 2015 Selectboard Meeting. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

4. Selectboard Items

- a) Appoint Green Up Day Coordinator: MacPhee noted that Ed Dinnany has held this position for several years and Bennett indicated that Dinnany is willing to continue. *Peter Golec made the motion to appoint Edward Dinnany as the Green Up Day Coordinator for the Town of Rockingham. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*
- b) Resolution on 706 Rockingham Road Mortgage: Stearns explained to the Board that Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc. (formerly Connecticut River Transit) will be remortgaging its loan and the Town, being a property owner, must post a “Notice of Intention to Grant Mortgage on Municipal Real Estate”. Stearns stated that Attorney Steve Ankuda has drafted the Notice and the Refinancing Motion for the Board. *Ann DiBernardo made the motion that the Chair of the Selectboard be authorized to sign on behalf of the Town of Rockingham a Mortgage Deed and such other documents as may be required to pledge as collateral the property interest of the Town of Rockingham in the premises located at 706 Rockingham Road as part of a refinance of such property through Key Bank or its affiliates. Such property having been conveyed by Grand Rock, LLC to the Town of Rockingham and Connecticut River Transit, Inc., now Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc., by Deed dated January 7, 2008 and recorded in Book 310, Page 170 of the Rockingham Town Land Records. The Town of Rockingham to have no responsibility pursuant to such refinancing other than the pledge of its interest in such real property and such refinancing to be approved by the Federal Transit Authority. Notice of this proposed remortgaging to be posted in at least three (3) public places within the Town and published in a newspaper of general circulation for at least thirty (30) days prior to the signing of the new mortgage. Such notice shall provide that if a petition is signed by 5% of the voters of the Town of Rockingham objecting to the proposed mortgaging, then the question of such mortgaging shall be considered at a special or annual Town Meeting called for that purpose pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1061. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

Review Overtime & Comp Time Report: No comments.

Review & Update Task List:

- Park & Ride: Contractor has provided some documentation and Stearns has asked for the quantity of gravel that will be needed. Stearns stated that the goal is to have this completed by June 30, 2016.

- TransCanada: Stearns noted that there are 2 appeals now – one on the 2012 value to the Vermont Supreme Court and one on the 2015 value to the Superior Court in Newfane.
- Vilas Bridge – Stearns discussed this with the Development Director and it was decided not to research the prospect of purchasing this bridge and to ask the Board if it really desires to own a bridge. The Board agreed that this would not be feasible and no research will be done.
- Main Street Bridge, Saxtons River: Complete and will be removed from list.
- CRT Vehicle Wash: Stearns stated that he has spoken with CRT and closed contained vehicles are no problem. However, plow trucks with wing & plow attachments would be too large and the beds of the trucks would have to be emptied. This will be removed from the list.

Review Agenda Items for Next Meeting – December 1, 2015:

- Highway vehicle loan documents
- YTD Budget Status
- Continue FY2017 Budget Discussion

Review Agenda Items for Joint Board Meeting - December 29, 2015: Cancelled

Review & Approve Orders, Bills & Warrants: *Peter Golec made the motion to approve the orders, bills and warrants as presented. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

Other Business:

- DiBernardo asked if the Dari Joy mediation was still scheduled. Stearns stated that as far as he knew it was still scheduled for November 18 in Arlington and Josh Hearne would be the Town representative.
- Golec asked what the status was of Rice Road. Stearns stated that it was scheduled to be done this Thursday.
- Golec asked about Russell Street. Stearns stated that this is going to be redone.
- Golec stated that there is a rather large pothole on Cherry Hill by the Middle School and 3 on Clark Court in Saxtons River.

Executive Session: No executive session was necessary.

Adjourn: *Peter Golec made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

Attest: _____
Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk