

ROCKINGHAM SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Present: Lamont Barnett, Joshua Hearne, Peter Golec, Ann DiBernardo, Stefan Golec

Also Present: Willis Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk; Dan Austin, Green Mt. Power; Susan MacNeil, Southern VT Idol; Mary Helen Hawthorne, BFDDA Executive Director; Denis Jeffrey, Rockingham Fire Chief; Kevin Kingsbury, Rockingham Firefighter; Deborah Wright; Joel Love; Tim Doherty; James Mitchell

Press: Alex Stradling, FACT8; Tory Jones Bonenfant, Eagle Times; Susan Smallheer, Rutland Herald; Joel Slutsky, The Shopper

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Lamont Barnett

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

Approve Minutes of April 19, 2016: *Ann DiBernardo made the motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2016. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

- James Mitchell noted that the sidewalks in the downtown were in bad shape and asked the Selectboard to consider repairing these.
- Deborah Wright asked when the alley between Town Hall and People's United Bank would be open. Stearns stated that the main section was open to pedestrian traffic and the entire sidewalk and driveway would be completed by Friday.

Manager's Report:

- Stearns reported that 227 Rockingham Street was offered to the Town and was declined.
- Stearns spoke with Alonzo Neff of Green Mountain Power earlier today and was assured that they were working on getting the vacated poles removed around town.
- The planting on the FEMA buyout properties will be Friday and volunteers are still needed.
- Green Up Day is this Saturday.
- Street sweeping in Saxtons River is scheduled for next week.
- An invitation was received from the BFHS Alumni Association for the Manager, Selectboard and Trustees to sit on the reviewing stand for the Alumni Parade on Sunday, June 19.
- As expected, the Brockways Mill and Cherry Hill applications to VTrans were denied.
- The sidewalk on Meadow Lane will be done next week.
- The parking lot between the Legion and Vermont Pretzel will be closed for several days for repair of the sidewalk. In addition the sidewalk next to the Baptist Church and the landing on the stairs leading into the Square will also be repaired.
- Stearns reported that not once but twice, the postings on the bulletin board in the Town Hall have been removed including the Town checklist. Stearns stated that if anyone wants a copy of anything posted that copies were available in the Clerk's office.

- Notice was given today from Green Mountain Power that there would be a power outage on June 5 from midnight to 4:00 am in the downtown. Rain date would be June 12.

Agenda:

1. Green Mountain Power: Dan Austin was present representing Green Mountain Power and would answer any questions.
 - a) License to Bury Electric Cable: Stearns stated that he and Hinds had visited the site on Osgood Road and the only stipulation was that the stone wall be left intact. *Ann DiBernardo made the motion to grant the license to bury electric cable to Green Mountain Power as presented. Motion was seconded by Stefan Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*
 - b) Requests for Pole & Wire Locations: *Peter Golec made the motion to approve the request for pole & wire locations to Green Mountain Power as presented for Osgood Road. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Southern Vermont Idol: Susan MacNeil, producer of Southern Vermont Idol, was present to inform the Board of the auditions on Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, June 18 at the Moose Lodge. The competition will begin on July 9 and the finale will be August 5. All net proceeds will benefit the Rockingham Arts & Museum Project.
3. Finance Office
 - a) FY2016 Budget Status: Stearns stated that the Town is still in good shape and he does not foresee any issues. Stearns stated that he hopes to pay all costs for the alley reconstruction out of this year's budget which will leave the amount approved at Town Meeting for FY2017 to do repairs on the Rec building.
4. Project Updates
 - a) Safe Routes to School Sidewalk: Start date June 8 with completion by June 30.
 - b) Bridge Street Bridge: The VTrans review period is over and the revised project will be going out to bid soon.
 - c) Town Plan: A memo from Alan LaCombe, Chair of the Rockingham Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Adjustment, was included in the Board packets. It is the PC/ZBA's goal to complete the technical update in May. A 30 day public notice period with a public hearing on July 6 will then be done. The plan will then go to the Selectboard for approval.
5. Selectboard Items
 - a) Request from BFDDA for additional funding: Barnett stated that a letter had been received from Executive Director Mary Helen Hawthorne requesting an additional \$1,000.00 from the Town to cover the cost of time spent for the Downtown Designation application. Hawthorne was present and also made an alternative offer to keep track of

her time spent on this project and to have the Town reimburse this. Peter Golec noted that the Bellows Falls Village also donates to BFDDA and asked if they had also been approached. Hawthorne stated that they had not. Hawthorne explained that the additional hours would be needed by her as in previous years the Town's Development Director had done this application and there now being no development director this would fall to BFDDA to complete. *Ann DiBernardo made the motion that the Town reimburse BFDDA for additional hours for the executive director not to exceed \$1,000.00 for hours needed to complete the Downtown Designation application. Motion was seconded by Stefan Golec. Motion passed*

- b) Discuss Merger Hearing: Barnett noted that there were some requests at the public hearing held on Saturday to make changes and asked the board members if they wanted to make any changes and push the process out or to let the document go to a vote. The remaining 4 members of the board all felt the process should move forward and go to a vote.

Hearne did note that it seemed that the Village voters present at the public hearing were mainly concerned about having water commissioners but didn't get the sense that the Board of Trustees would be holding up the process and it would go to a vote. Peter Golec stated that there are some large communities in the State such as Burlington and Winooski that do not have water commissioners and the Selectboard is in charge of these funds.

Rockingham Fire Chief Denis Jeffrey stated that he had heard there would be only 1 fire department should the merger go through. Stearns stated that was not true, the document calls for the 3 departments to stay as they are now but all 3 would be funded through the Town taxes.

Joel Love noted the \$320,000 amount that TransCanada would not be paying would be made up by taxpayers. Love also felt that the majority of voters do not want this and asked if there was a way to take this off the ballot. Barnett stated that he doesn't feel it right to stop the process at this point. Love asked if there was some way to get the word out to voters.

After discussion it was decided that postcards would be mailed to every registered voter making them aware of the Special Town Meeting vote and to remind them that absentee ballots were available.

Review Overtime & Comp Time Report: No comments or concerns.

Review & Update Task List – 1st meeting of the month:

- Park & Ride – meeting tomorrow, highway will do prep work when available.
- TransCanada negotiations – no change
- Vilas Bridge – hoping to set up meeting for May 31 – waiting to hear from Walpole
- SMP case – jury selection 7/14 with trial 7/15 in Newfane
- Railroad Tunnel – will be milled & filled tomorrow morning

Review Agenda Items for Next Meeting – May 17, 2016: Barnett noted that this meeting is scheduled for the same date as the vote discussed above. The meeting will be changed to Tuesday, May 24 at 6:30.

- Solar discussion
- WOOL Radio use of Waypoint Center

Review Agenda Items for Joint Board Meeting - May 31, 2016

- Board Training with Ray Massucco
- Vilas Bridge discussion

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

Other Business:

Barnett noted that Gary Fox had drafted a letter of support from the Selectboard and passed it around for the Board to read. *Stefan Golec made the motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter as printed. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed unanimously.*

Executive Session: *Stefan Golec made the motion that the Board enter executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss personnel where premature general public knowledge would place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board came out of executive session at 8:20 p.m. No announcements were made.

Adjourn: *Peter Golec made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed.*

Attest: _____
Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk