

**Town of Westmore**

**Municipal Building**

**54 Hinton Hill Rd**

**Westmore, VT**

**February 26, 2024**

## **SELECT BOARD MEETING**

In attendance: David Stevens, Peter Hyslop, Miriam Simonds, Elaine Cashin, Dan Sicard, John Zimmer, Renee Falconer, Laurie Lakin, Donna Dzugas, Matt Wilson, Elizabeth Tucker, Carol Westinghouse, Ellie Maychrzak, Cal Page, Wally Rogers, Mark Perkins, Russell Curtis, David Bradshaw, Deb Smith, 1 signature I could not identify

David opened the meeting at 6:00PM

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Peter requested a Conflict of Interest discussion be added as the first item on the agenda. David motioned and Miriam seconded to add to the agenda. Motion passed.

**Conflict of Interest:** Peter stated he had attended a Zoning Board meeting 2 years ago about the possibility of a communication tower being placed on his land. He stated he had recused himself from any decisions regarding the tower at a Select Board meeting when the receipt of the Notice to file an application for the tower had been warned. He added he had been accused of a conflict of interest at a public informational meeting held on Feb 22 and again via an email he had seen today. He stated he would step back from his duties as a Select Board member until this process is over..effective immediately. Peter left the meeting. David will check with the town attorney on how to move forward

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Town Clerk Discussion:** Elaine wanted to verify Trash Pick-Up day next week due to the Town Meeting on Tuesday. Dan reported Trash pick up will be on Wednesday the 6th next week and Recycle pick-up on Thursday the 7th. Elaine wanted to let the Board know she would not be able to attend the entirety of the March 11th meeting because she needed to be at the Annual School Meeting also on the 11th to register new voters if they chose to vote. When she asked about the Select Board Organizational Meeting usually held after Town Meeting, David responded they would hold at a later time due to the Primary voting taking place in the Municipal Building until 7 PM.

**AARP Community Challenge Grant:** Elaine explained she would like to apply for the grant hoping to be awarded funds to purchase a large screen TV for the Municipal Building in order to be better prepared for Virtual public meetings and increase public engagement. Miriam motioned and David seconded to allow Elaine to apply for the grant for the Town of Westmore. Motion passed.

**Discussion on Dog Ordinance and Enforcement:** Donna Dzugas questioned having an ordinance when there is no enforcement. She was disappointed in what she felt was a delay of action by the Dog Officer in an incident she reported. She added she feels a dog owner should be held accountable for their dog's actions. Renee Falconer, ACO, apologized and stated that moving forward she will receive from the Town Clerk a report of previously licensed dogs in the community and those licensed by April 1 of the current year so she can better handle a situation where a complaint against a dog occurs.

**Milfoil Management RFP:** Miriam motioned and David seconded to have Elaine send out an RFP for Milfoil Management earlier this year due to an increased demand for services. Motion passed.

**WILLOUGHBY LAKE WATERSHED ACTION PLAN Final Report March 7th:** Elaine announced a VIRTUAL ONLY Public Meeting to take place on March 7th at 6 PM. The link is <http://tinyurl.com/Willoughby-LWAP-Final-Report>.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Select Board Meeting Feb 26, 2024

**Consolidated Contract:** Miriam motioned and David seconded to authorize Elaine to sign the Consolidated Contract, once corrected and reviewed by herself and John, to install an additional fiber line and to renew the original fiber line and phone number for the Municipal Building. Motion passed. Miriam motioned and David seconded to authorize Elaine to disconnect the Listers landline as they now have a VoIP phone system.

**Wake Boats-Update on LCAR Ruling:** David Bradshaw reported that it is highly likely that LCAR will uphold the DEC/ANR ruling mandating a 500 foot stand off from shore in waters at least 20 feet deep to be implemented this summer. He added that LCAR stated wake boats do not conform to "normal use" as defined in a 1993 law. A finalized ruling will trigger persons representing individual lakes to be able to file a petition to prohibit wake boats. Deb Smith added that all of the town's and boat greeters' efforts and resources battling Milfoil will be at risk with this ruling which would only allow wake boats on 30 lakes, of which Lake Willoughby is one. Calvin Page and Carol Westinghouse each read their letters addressed to the Select Board as well as one from Kristin Obrys which are on file in the Town Clerk's office. They were all in support of a ban on wake boats on Lake Willoughby.

**Solar Eclipse Event April 8th ..Clean Up- Use of Municipal Building- Emergency Management:**

Laurie Lakin stated she called Forest Parks and Rec who said they would put 2 port-a-lets at Sentinel Park. Elaine reported that Forest, Parks and Rec have also announced that hiking trails will be closed and will not open for the event. She will call to see if there will be barriers/extra signage of some sort placed to keep hikers off trails and paths. Elaine to call Sheriff Harlow to see what their plans are for Emergency Management in the area. She will touch base with Adam Husslein of Glover Ambulance and Ed Levie of Westmore Fire & Rescue for their plans with regards to Westmore. Miriam motioned to allow a Galileoscope Educational Event to take place in the Municipal Building on Saturday, April 6th for 2 hours only with a maximum of 20 participants conditional on submission by Liz Tucker of a Certificate of Insurance naming the Town of Westmore as an insured party. David seconded. Motion passed. Elaine added she will be present in the Municipal Building for the event to help where needed.

**ROAD FOREMAN:**

**Black Truck-Cost of Repairs/Replacement/Lease:** Discussion focused on the costs of the repair of the 2014 Black international truck which were quoted by Allegiance to be \$30,960.17. David explained that he had spoken to the Account Manager at Allegiance who explained that this amount is the most the town would pay. As they take the truck apart to fix it, they remove parts to get to the problem. When they reassemble the truck, they will reuse a part if it is okay. Otherwise they will replace the part. Miriam was concerned that it was only one estimate and was reluctant to sign an approval right now. Dan explained that only an International dealership has the computer codes to work with. He also said to move the truck would in itself cost \$1,000 one way. Dan noted the parts were estimated at approximately \$28,000 and labor at \$1600. It was noted that the town has been lucky that there has not been much snow because this truck has been down for three weeks now and the little truck can not handle plowing the roads and hauling sand. It was also noted that Allegiance would begin to charge a daily storage fee which meant a delay in a decision would cost the town more. Miriam asked for 2-3 days to research possible financial help from VLCT, NVDA or our Insurance carrier. David will call Allegiance to ask for a few more days. Miriam motioned and David seconded to give David authority to approve and sign the Allegiance estimate if no other alternatives are found by Friday of this week after Miriam researches and confers with David. Motion passed.

**Trash Pick-Up-An Alternative Process:** Dan suggested that rather than have Riley handle the trash two times, ie. pick up trash and deposit it at the Transfer station to be picked up later by Casella, have Riley drive the trash directly to Casella. It would save the fee of approximately \$480.00 paid to Casella for each pick-up. Miriam motioned to try this process to start April 1st for a month or two. David seconded. Motion passed. Dan will log the miles, the time it takes, and payroll expenses for Riley to see if it is advantageous to save money for the town.

**Update on Advertising for Road Crew Member:** Dan reported he had received another application. Personnel to be discussed in Executive Session at the end of the meeting. David asked to enter into an executive session at the end of the meeting.

**TREASURER REPORT:**

**Monthly Cash Projections:** John reported we have a stronger footing beginning this year with a higher cash balance in the Municipal Cash Account over last year.

**Pace & Hawley Auditors:** David motioned and Miriam seconded to sign the Engagement Letter to begin the Financial Audit for FY2023.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:** Miriam reported on the NEKWMD meeting that took place on Feb 13, 2024. She reported their revenue exceeded expenses by \$2100 and that Electronic Waste pick up is available again. She reported towns not in the district are under the impression that they can also use the Lyndonville facility. She reinforced that it is only NEKWMD district towns who can use this facility.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** David motioned and Miriam seconded to enter Executive Session under 1 VSA 313(a) at 8:10 PM. Miriam motioned and David seconded to exit the Executive Session at 8:30 PM. Motion passed. No Action Taken.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** All correspondence on file in Town Clerk's Office for review

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Miriam announced that Comcast will provide a presentation on their progress of getting infrastructure in place and internet expansion at the end of Town Meeting. They will have a map showing areas included and costs.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR Select Board MEETING-February 12 Select Board Meeting:**

David motioned to approve and Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

**REVIEW BILLS AND SIGN SELECT ORDERS & PAYROLL #5:** David motioned to approve. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

David motioned to adjourn at 9:10 PM. Peter seconded. Motion passed.

Prepared by Elaine Cashin

David Stevens



Miriam Simonds  
Miriam Simonds



Select Board Meeting Feb 26, 2024