

Town of Westmore

Municipal Building

54 Hinton Hill Rd

Westmore, VT

November 6, 2023

SELECT BOARD MEETING

In attendance: David Stevens, Peter Hyslop, Miriam Simonds, Elaine Cashin, Dan Sicard, Bill Perkins, Randy Knaggs, Carol Davis, Donna Dzugan-Smith, Beth Martin, Jacques Roberge, David Snedecker, Liz Tucker, Robert Patton

David opened the meeting at 6PM

Miriam motioned to ratify all actions taken at the October 23, 2023 Select Board meeting. Peter seconded. Motion passed.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Dan requested that quotes he had received for the replacement of the Black International truck be reviewed. Miriam motioned to add the quotes to the agenda. Peter seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jacques Roberge: Discussion on the FY 2024 Health Insurance Rates. Jacques presented the FY2024 premium rates for the policy currently in place. More information needed as an increase in rates is noted.

MVP VT PLUS Reflective Silver 2 for couple	2023 rate/month = \$1368.56
	2024 rate/month = \$1480.54

Robert Patton, Swampguana Diving: Report on DASH services 2023: Robert reported that every year the lake looks better. He is happy to see more native plant growth to carpet the bottom of the lake and help prevent growth of milfoil. He added his team focused on the Boat Launch as that is the area with the highest traffic but surveyed and serviced each area as indicated in his report. Because the lake is such a large area, he noted that it will need continuous surveying and DASH services in target areas. He apologized for the miscommunication with the state concerning the location of the harvesting needed for the permit. There was discussion about possibly beginning before July 1 and special permitting needed. Elaine will follow up. No action taken. Information Only.

Greeter Report 2023 from Katherine Busby: Elaine read Katherine's report which is attached.

NVDA David Snedecker: Municipal Technical Assistance Program: David introduced himself as the Executive Director of NVDA (Northeastern Vermont Development Association), the regional planning commission for Westmore. He reported the town was pre-approved to receive technical assistance to access federal funds for local projects for certain projects. Some of those qualifying projects for Westmore seemed to include climate change mitigation and resilience and community and economic development. Peter motioned and Miriam seconded to participate in the program. Motion passed. David S. determined that the North Beach project would fall under the MTAP program and with a scope of work defined, the Agency of Administration could help write grant applications to match ARPA funding. He spoke about an ANR Outdoor Recreation Grant & Building General Services as funding resources. Bill asked about the sequence of events and if the North Beach Committee should also look into and report the grants available. David S. responded he could assist them and that at least 3 quotes are needed for most grants. He added that the grant process is competitive and in response to a question, he noted that Westmore was in line to receive assistance from VCRD.

Lions Club of Orleans: Elaine reported they had donated \$100.00 to the Milfoil program.

Town Clerk Request for additional funds to train a new Assistant Town Clerk: Elaine requested an additional \$800-\$1000 to train a new Assistant Town Clerk at \$16.00/hour. She added her office is slightly under budget but needs Carol to train on the Accounts Payable portion of the NEMRC system. Peter motioned and Miriam seconded to approve the additional funds. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion on work to be done in the Old Town Office: Elaine asked if the Board would allow a next step approach to find the cause of the smell in the Old Town Office. She proposed following up on Peter's work to rehab the building as a Community Meeting Place. She added she would like to install the guest network here separate from the Town Clerk's Office. In addition to being an alternative meeting space for town committees, this would allow for a reliable network for those committees to hold Zoom meetings. More information needed. No action taken.

Discussion Hybrid/Zoom Meetings: Donna asked if the Board would create a Zoom Committee to look into the process and the security of the town network. Elaine felt the process is outlined by VLCT clearly but expressed concerns about finding a person to commit to attendance at every meeting as technical support. The Board asked to invite Josh from Northeast Computer Systems, Inc in Lyndonville to come to a meeting to answer their questions and concerns. No action taken.

VLCT Coverage Direction Form for Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists: Peter motioned and Miriam seconded to approve the standard \$10,000,000 uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage limit and agree to the additional cost of approximately \$400/year and have David sign the form as the Municipal Representative . Motion passed.

ROAD FOREMAN

Dan reported that Parkview offered to buy the four old loader tires which are of no use to the town. Peter motioned to sell the four old loader tires to Parkview for \$100.00/tire. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Replacing Highway Worker: Dan asked how the board wanted to move forward, whether it be for a full time or part time crew member and what his job responsibilities will be. After much discussion about the costs and manpower involved with trash pick-up and due to the current shortage of staff, Peter motioned and Miriam seconded to change the household Garbage, Recycling and Transfer Station schedule to the following beginning the week of the November 12th:

Curbside Pick-Up:

GARBAGE ONLY

Alternating Tuesdays beginning with pick-up on November 14

RECYCLING ONLY

Alternating Thursdays beginning with pick-up on November 16

TRANSFER STATION – NEW hours of operation:

- **Every other Saturday beginning with November 25th**
- **Hours open 8-1 every other Saturday year-round.**

Motion passed.

John will prepare a comprehensive review of all costs involved with the current trash retrieval & disposal service for town residents for the Board to review. Peter motioned and Miriam seconded to advertise for a part-time Transfer Station Attendant to be 18 years and older and work every Saturday from 8AM - 1 PM with a pay of \$22.00/hour. There will be no benefits. Motion passed. The ad is to run for 2 weeks.

Policy on Trash Pick-Up..Private vs Public Roads: After discussion about policies during the past years and current problems that occur with roads that are not maintained,, it was determined that a new policy had to be written with a specific set of guidelines for the road crew to follow as well as for the townspeople to be aware of expectations. No action taken. Miriam and Elaine to work on a policy.

Quotes on Replacement of Black International: Dan presented quotes for a Western Star, Freightline and Mack truck from 3 vendors for the Board to review.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Treasurer John Zimmer- Cash Summary and Budget Statue Report October 2023 (attached): John reported approximately \$145,000 in delinquent taxes remain after the October 20th deadline. He would like to start working budget sessions with the Board and focus initially on Revenue as to the downward trend of State and Municipal fees.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence is on file in the Town Clerk's Office for review.

1.NEK Broadband Invite to a Public Zoom Meeting on November 9, 2023 & 2023 Annual Report.

2.Email from Kimball Johnson regarding Wake Boats

LOCAL CITIZENS & VISITORS: Miriam responded to a resident with a Comcast update. She reported that Melissa Pierce apologized for construction delays and gave a new timeline of possibly the end of this year or beginning of next. Miriam was told that maps and plans were not available.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR Select Board MEETING-October 23, 2023 Miriam motioned to approve the minutes, Peter seconded. Motion passed.

REVIEW BILLS AND SIGN SELECT ORDERS & PAYROLL #23: Peter motioned to approve. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

David motioned to adjourn at 9:25 PM. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Prepared by Elaine Cashin



David Stevens



Peter Hyslop



Miriam Simonds



