

**Town of West Rutland
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, May 21, 2007
West Rutland Town Hall; 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Sean Barrows, John Harvey, Pete Bianchi, Chris Mathewson, and Dick Daley.

Also Present: Judi McCullough, Tom Yennerell, Leo Tyminski, Rebecca Jones, Mey _____, Alex Alexander, Jerry Hansen (SIGH Enterprises, Paw House), JoAnn Hollis (REDC), Mitch Frankenberg (The Paw House), Jennifer Fredreck (The Paw House), Jessica Danyow (Rutland County Humane Society), Rosita Desjardins, Chester Brown, Glenn Campbell, Pat Trepanier, and Ronda Panoushek.

Item 1) Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to Order at 6:03 p.m. by Sean Barrows.

Item 2) Approve Minutes from the Previous Meeting: A Motion was made by Pete Bianchi to approve the Minutes of the May 14, 2007 meeting as written. The Motion was seconded by John Harvey and carried unanimously.

Item 3) Public Concerns:

A) Paw House Inn: Mitch came to the meeting to go over the new project at Paw House. They have been in West Rutland for 6 years. They are starting to give dog training. The project entails adding 10 cabins. They are building a relationship with the school and the Town and believe in giving back to the Town. Jerry Hansen is working with Mitch and Jennifer on this project and feels that this project is very conducive to business in the area. Bringing people to the area by accommodating their pets brings income into all facets of the area. Occupancy rates have been above the norm. They are looking to see what the stumbling blocks are ahead of time so that they can get this moving. Mitch asked that any issues be brought forward so that they can address them now rather than later. JoAnn Hollis, of REDC, was here to express support for this expansion. Mitch stated that they have met with the Planning Commission; they need permits; purchasing land from their neighbors; engineering process is going on now; will need Town sewer and water; NBF Architects are working on the plans for the cabins. Pete stated that the Board could probably help with moral support, but no monies were available. Mitch asked what the next step for them would be to obtain the Town permits. Pete asked what the average stay is? Mitch stated right now 3 to 4 nights, with the cabins it would increase to 6 or 7 nights. They are integrating other businesses in the Town; ie. making beds for the dogs, the Carving Studio visits, restaurants, etc. The cabins will be the same. Tom stated that he believes it is an outstanding project for the Town. The Board members have no objections to the project. The process is to submit the application again to the Planning Commission. The engineer believes that access to the sewer and water is not going to be any problem. A pressure pump may be needed for the water. The next step is to get the permit applications in place.

B) Rutland County Humane Society: Jessica Danyow, Director of the Rutland Area Shelter, is here to review a new program they have. The program is capture, neuter, and return feral cats. It is estimated that there are 12,000 cats in Rutland County. Reducing the number of complaints is

the goal. The cats are identified as unowned, are trapped, sterilized, and returned to that location to be monitored by local volunteers. Rebecca Jones has spoken with businesses in the shopping plaza regarding the program. She is a volunteer in West Rutland; and will be one of the people that will trap and help take care of these cats. Ms. Danyow offered information and let the Board know that if complaints do come up people can notify the Humane Society. At this time, they have the funds for the program. These cats will be vaccinated against rabies. Some people will be against this program because of predation. Anyone who has issues as a property owner, they have a guide for helping people to solve the problem. They can help with an area that has an over population by going and taking care of it in one day and sterilizing them. They have 15 traps at the shelter. There has been some work in Town with these cats already and it has been successful. There are seven clinics in the county that are working on this program as well. This will reduce the fighting and mating, and the smell that they leave. Tom asked for a little write up for the newsletter.

Item 4) Action Items:

A) Status of Board Goals: Tom will put this on a future agenda.

Pete Bianchi made a Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:00 and to enter into the Budget Meeting. Seconded by John Harvey.

Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Information Meeting 7:00 PM

Sean reviewed the process of developing the Budget. It is on a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. Review of the budget and work for the next year starts at the end of November and is ready to present to the voters by the end of January.

Chet Brown stated that a reduction was noted in the new budget. Why isn't the timber sale money showing in the revenue side? The revenue was in FY 2007 not 2006 and it was unplanned. The figures being looked at are budget or proposed not actual. It will show in the misc. revenue in the Town Report for FY 07. Glenn Campbell asked about the decrease in the fire insurance policy. The insurance company estimated a much higher value until they saw the actual building. This does not jeopardize the coverage in any way. Chet Brown asked about increasing the police budget. It was decreased before. The Sheriff's Department is hopefully getting some funds to help offset the 7 day coverage. Does the Town get any of the money from the fines. The billable of fines is \$60,000 but the Town receives approximately \$10,000. Is the position for the rec dept. going to be filled? No one has been hired yet so \$3,000 is being carried into FY08 which brings the \$15,000 to \$12,000. The Town would like to hire someone because there are not enough volunteers to continue the programs. The hired person would oversee a volunteer base. Sponsorship of activities has been discussed with local businesses. Mr. Tyminski asked if someone gets hurt on the bike path will insurance cover? Yes it will. With this budget the taxes would go up \$15.47 on \$100,000. Will signage be put up prior to voting? Signs will be put out Thursday this week by Pete. Sean reviewed the rec plans in answer to the prior question. The hired person would be a program administrator who would schedule the use of the Town Hall, the soccer program, work on winter programs, adult programs, educational programs, summer programs, little league, mighty mites, etc. One title that has been tossed around is Community Service Director. Ronda Panoushek wanted to know why the Fire Department didn't do more fund

raising. The Fire Department does do fund raising on their own annually and they buy equipment with that money.

Pete Bianchi made a Motion to adjourn the FY08 Budget Meeting at 7:45 p.m. John Harvey seconded the Motion and it carried unanimously.

Item 5) Discussion Items:

A) Manager's Report:

- The Business Breakfast Committee is going to propose putting forth an organization. They are considering a block party on Main Street in the Fall. The next meeting is Thursday the 24th at the Carving Studio.
- Dick and Tom attended the meeting on Burlington Telecom. It is a revenue generator for municipalities. You pay on a lease basis to install the network; it is broadband service to the whole Town. You would get television, internet and telephone.
- Need to discuss promoting the vote on May 31st.

Item 6) Board Member Concerns:

Pete - grading the roads? Clark Hill is next. Ditching will be done too.

Dick - near Loso's on the project it looks awful narrow. It will be 20' wide. Joe Baker started talking about the corrections facility that the State wanted to put up. He asked if Pittsford didn't take it would we reconsider. This is a low security facility with about 60 to 70 inmates. Mr. Baker also brought up chartering the Town. Tom stated that it is a major project but it does have a lot of advantages. Dick will call Joe and get something set up for him to come to a future meeting.

John - Pleasant Street - the ditch at Molaski's has been resolved to their satisfaction.

Chris - Clarendon Avenue - the bike lane going out of Town is not bad, but the drains are at different angles and extend into the bike lane; coming into Town there are two levels of pavement. It is signed as a bike lane because that was the design. Discussion about what a fix would be.

Item 7) Approve Orders: The Orders were reviewed and approved as presented.

Item 8) Adjournment: A Motion was made by Dick Daley to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. John Harvey seconded the Motion and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi McCullough