

**Town of West Rutland
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, September 24, 2007
West Rutland Town Hall; 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Sean Barrows, Pete Bianchi, Dick Daley, Chris Mathewson, John Harvey, and Paul Myers (Acting Town Manager).

Also Present: Judi McCullough, Jayne Pratt, Mike McGann, Sally Eugair, Alex Alexander, Joe Skaza, Dennis Hillier, Rick Bloomer, Roy Pilcher, and Eric Hanson.

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: Chris Mathewson made a Motion to approve the Minutes as presented. John Harvey seconded the Motion and it carried unanimously.

Item 3) Public Concerns: Rick Bloomer raised his concern regarding the new Noise Ordinance. Mr. Bloomer stated that the way the ordinance is written almost anything except resting would be in violation of the ordinance. Mr. Bloomer questioned what was really being targeted, and stated that there is already a statute called “disturbing the peace”. The point is that the Ordinance is too broad to work. His request is that before this Ordinance goes any further a look at the long term ramifications be looked into. Mr. Daley stated that the Ordinance was mostly from a format received from the VT League of Cities and Towns. Mr. Daley then asked what Mr. Bloomer’s proposal would be for excessive 4-wheeler use and straight pipe motorcycles be dealt with. Mr. Bloomer stated that you go after what you are after. Discussion as to how this could be done. Pete Bianchi suggested that the Town’s attorney take a look at it. This Ordinance is in the 60 day hearing period.

This will be reviewed again at the next meeting. Paul will follow up with Atty. Kupferer.

Item 4) Action Items:

A) Planning Grant: The Planning Commission is applying for municipal planning funds to finish the Town Plan. Jayne believes they are asking for \$1,500. The board needs to sign the resolution. These funds will be used to work out housing needs, transportation, word processing, public notices. John Harvey made a Motion to accept the Resolution. Dick Daley seconded the Motion and it carried unanimously.

B) Baxter Street Pump Station: Mr. Hillier stated that the bids were in. Forcier & Aldrich recommended that the Beldon bid be awarded. A contingency amount is required. The site needs to be ready to accept the pump station by Nov. 12th. Discussion on how the financing would be done. This is the only pump station that wasn’t taken care of in the upgrade. The interest will be approximately 5.5%, maybe under 5%; Mike McGann will check on this. Dick Daley made a Motion that up to \$120,000 be budgeted for the upgrading of the Baxter Street pump station. John Harvey seconded the Motion and it carried unanimously. Dick Daley made a Motion to accept Belden’s bid of \$58,900 for the Baxter Street pump station. Chris Mathewson seconded the Motion and it carried unanimously. Discussion on how the interest is handled on this type of

Note.

C) Highway Truck Loan Documents: On Sept. 10th the Board approved the highway truck replacement for \$37,200, but the note was written for \$40,708. Mike will check with the bank to see if the difference is accrued interest, but it is his thinking that it is not. Paul suggested that the Note be approved, the cost watched, and the difference paid back when the truck is completed, rather than hold up the work. Chris Mathewson made a Motion to adjust the approved amount of the loan to \$40,708. John Harvey seconded and the Motion carried unanimously.

D) Sally Eugair - Soil Conservation: Sally has been working with the Town since 2001 and reviewed for the Board what has been done so far. Ms. Eugair is here tonight to present a plan for phragmites control in the cattail marsh area. This plan would take care of 75% of the cost. The Town would have to carry 25%. This would require a wetlands permit to approve the spraying of the phragmites. The phragmites is choking out the cattails and is not providing anything for the wildlife in the marsh. Roy Pilcher stated that the cattails do provide habitat for wildlife and birds. There is not a non-chemical alternative that is effective. The application puts you on the list for funding, it can be refused at that point if the cost to the Town is not feasible. The application has to be in by November 1st. It will take at least 3 years to control. Ms. Eugair needs to do the background work to see how many acres are involved, the cost, etc. Mr. Pilcher stated that there is a proven track record for this chemical; it has been used in other wildlife areas. The boardwalk is owned by the Town and is on land owned by Monica Gawet. John Harvey made a Motion to approve the cost share of the Wildlife Habitat Incentive grant and to authorize Sean Barrows to sign the application. Pete Bianchi seconded the Motion and it carried unanimously. There may be grant money available to take care of the weeds that are closing in around the bridges which hinders the fire department's ability to pull water for fires in the Whipple Hollow area. Discussion as to whether the water can be lowered in the swamp by lockes. Joe Skaza will show Ms. Eugair the other areas that are critical to treatment.

E) Eric Hansen - County Forester: Eric Hansen reported that the Town earned over \$12,000 on the timber harvest. Mr. Hansen came tonight in the hopes of developing long term goals with the Town in managing these timber areas. On the Dodd farm block there is someone driving in there with a rather large vehicle which is damaging the water bars. This is on the Town property and is probably coming in from the north not through the Gorham property. Access to the area for this last harvest was through Gorham's land, if for some reason that access changes, there will be a problem getting to the area. Mr. Hansen suggested that enhancing the bridge near the soccer fields would be the best solution; or coming out the VELCO right-of-way. The next scheduled timber cut is for 2015. On the Clark Hill property of about 450 acres only 10 acres was treated. There are a couple of boundaries that are not clear. The ATV trail that goes through the property has some very nice oak trees that have been cut down (3 oaks, a pine, and one other oak); all of which has just been left laying there. Mr. Hansen stated that the logger had placed stone in there to aid in the project; he suggested that the Town will want to maintain this in order to keep the cost of future projects down. The Dodd block has some barberry and honeysuckle invasion. Mr. Hansen suggested that the Town may want to develop local interest in helping with these areas. Sean mentioned that using signage on the trails showing what the invasive plants are may be a good starting point. Mr. Hansen would definitely be willing to come to a meeting with the ATV club along with the selectboard. The Clark Hill parcel does not have a plan. Sean stated that the first step on the Dodd block problem of a vehicle in there is to notify all adjoining landowners that motorized vehicles are not permitted in there. Sean asked for pictures of the timber project; Eric

had some with him that Board reviewed.

F) Town Manager Search:

Paul reported that there are 5 applications so far and reviewed for the Board same. Paul reviewed for the Board the process for interviewing and how the League ranks applicants. The ads have been running for 1 week. Paul believes that by the end of next week if it is still on a low volume of application, he feels interviewing should start. A short list will be prepared and interviews started by the 29th of Oct. This Board needs to set a weighted set of criteria of what they are looking for. The 2nd round of interviews would be sent out by Nov. 14th. By following this schedule a job offer should be made by Dec. 10th. Realistically the board is looking at having someone by the end of January.

Paul reviewed what the search committee should consist of. Discussion.

G) Treasurer's Application: The board reviewed applications for Town Treasurer. The Board will conduct interviews at the next meeting. Mike McGann will be asked to sit in on the interviews.

Item 5) Discussion Items:

A) Manager's Report:

- Paul knows someone that works in the agency that reviews Town Charters. She said she would be willing to come in to speak with the Board. Paul will follow up on this.
- The Town Hall has no heat at this time. The contractor is waiting for some parts that are on back order. They hope to have heat on within a couple of weeks. Paul is looking for some low wattage heaters if necessary.
- Does West Rutland have issues with ancient roads? You only have until 2009 to get these roads on a map or they are gone. The Board would like to see a current map. Paul will see what he can get.
- The truck that Tom had been driving is in very poor condition. Joe Skaza will look into it and see if it is worth the fire department having. Paul will see if he can get a value on it for the next meeting.

Paul obtained prices from Irving for #2 fuel and propane which were not too bad. The price is very close to last year and the Town is locked in for price and quantities.

Alex Alexander donated the flags that are in the Board Room. They were leant out and at this time he his not sure if the flags that are in here are actually the ones that he gave. Alex would like the flags to stay in the building.

Item 6) Board Member Concerns:

Pete - Does the Town still have the grader? Clark Hill should be done.

Couldn't get the stage lights on the other night.

Chris - None.

John - None.

Dick - A sign post on the new portion of Pleasant Street does not have a sign on it - does anyone know what it was?

Sean - The fire station had a good turnout on Saturday. The first fall festival was successful. Sean

asked how Smith Street was coming along.

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

Item 8) Adjournment: A Motion was made by Pete Bianchi to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. Seconded by Chris Mathewson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi McCullough