

## Waterford Selectboard Working Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 28 @ 6:00PM

Davies Library

In Attendance: Gary Allard, Mike Barrett, Warner Hodgdon, Sue Hayes, Rob Begin. Attendance list attached.

Mike Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Sue Hayes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 11, 2023. Gary Allard seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Update from the Delinquent Tax Collector (Informational)

- Marcel Lapierre reported there is a total of \$17,770.26 left to be collected in taxes from 2020-2022. There is \$957,246.18 left to collect in 2023 taxes, which is about 23% of the total. This is much better than last year at this time when there was still \$1,736,365 left to be collected. Marcel reported that things are going well, and he is working with several property owners on settling payments.

Update from the Highway Department (Informational)

- Jim Hayes reported that last week he and Heather Gonyaw had a Zoom meeting with FEMA. An in-person meeting is scheduled for October 19 to further discuss the damage to the garage and see if FEMA can cover the cost of tearing it down or offer any compensation.
- Jim Hayes met with the State Agency of Natural Resources last week. They made a plan to fix culverts on Hale Road, just past the intersection of Old Silo Road, so they wouldn't fall through and cause disaster. The agency made an exemption so they can secure the culvert and won't have to worry about the scone falling.
- Mike Barrett reported that the Fire Department requested they be notified ahead of time for any road closures.

Update from the Town Clerk's Office (Informational)

- Deb Benoit reported that the Citation Book for animal control and zoning was found. Book number was approved by the state. Additional steps will be taken to obtain approval to issue citations.

#### Review Fuel Bids (Discussion/Action)

- Deb Benoit reported that she asked 5 companies to bid, but only got a response from 2 of them. Rob Begin made a motion to choose Fred's Energy. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

#### Update from the Treasurer's Office (Informational)

- Heather Gonyaw applied for, and the town was awarded, the \$4,000 Mini Grant through the Municipal Energy Resilience Plan. The grant needs to be spent before 12/31/26. She discussed possibly using the grant for a community event for energy resources.
- Heather Gonyaw worked with Ally from NVDA to apply the town for an Energy Resilience Assessment. They will organize the consultant to meet here around late November/early December. After the consultation, they will provide us with a substantial report, and we can decide to apply for a larger grant of \$500,000. The Highway Department will get the first consultation, then the Fire Department, and finally the library. The report should come around January.

#### Budget vs. Actual through September 30th (Discussion)

- Heather Gonyaw noted that the transfer station is still not breaking even. Some of the appropriations haven't given an invoice yet.
- A budget meeting is set up for next Monday with Rob Begin, Jim Hayes, Heather Gonyaw, and Gary Allard.

#### VLCT Written Request (Discussion/Possible Action)

- Rob Begin made a motion. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

#### Amend Personnel Policy (Discussion/Action)

- The Personnel Policy was revised to include the change to the retirement system. Revision 2 changes will be distributed to the four full-time employees affected by the changes.

#### ATV Survey Update (Informational)

- The survey is ready to be printed. The distribution process hasn't been worked out yet. The online survey is ready as well.
- October 23 is the deadline for sending out the papers. The online version may be posted sooner. The end date for getting responses is November 17. The mailing list is property owners.

#### ARPA Request

- Quotes to remediate the mold at the Town Garage will be obtained to determine if this might be work that could use ARPA funds.

- The library received bids to replace flooring and requested ARPA funds. Gary Allard made a motion to use ARPA funds to replace library flooring. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

#### Citizens' Concerns

- Deborah Caldwell voiced concern about the current ATV ordinance not being enforced. Additional law enforcement funds should be considered during the upcoming budget process.
- Martia Martel asked about speed limits on back dirt roads.
- Heather Gonyaw will have the current ATV ordinance posted on the Town website and Facebook.

#### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Review bids for the town garage
- First draft of 2024 budget
- Highway Department update
- ATV Survey Update
- Citation Authority Animal Control (Action)
- Bylaw and grant for town planning
- Fire Department update
- Timeline for town report
- Permit process for STR

#### Executive Session 1 V.S.A. 312(a) – Personnel

- Mike Barrett made a motion to enter Executive Session. Rob Begin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The group invited Jim Hayes and entered executive session at 7:12 PM.
- Rob Begin made a motion to increase Sean Goss' hourly wage to \$26 per hour. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0, there was 1 abstention.
- The group exited Executive Session at 7:28 PM.

#### Adjourn

- Rob Begin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary Allard seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.