

Town of Westminster Select Board Meeting

June 24, 2015

Present: K. Sheldon Beebe – Chair, Craig Allen – Clerk, Peter Barrett and Paul Banik – Vice Chair.

Others Present: Russell Hodgkins (Town Manger), Millie Barry (Recording Clerk), Nancy Dalzell, Charlie Kelton and Phil Savoy

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. following the sixth trash/recycling information meeting.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** A correction to the agenda, the next meeting date is 7/8/2015.
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Craig Allen made the motion to accept 6/10/2015 minutes as printed, Peter Barrett seconded, passed unanimously.
4. **Communications and Public Comments:** Paul Banik made a motion, Craig seconded to uphold to uphold the ordinance regarding illegal dumping in the Town. The motion passed 2-1, Peter Barrett dissenting. A ticket/citation and fine of \$250. issued to Charlie Kelton for leaving trash at the town garage/recycling will stand. A suggestion from the Board is to add additional no trash/dumping signs at the Town garage.
5. **Unfinished Business:**
 - A. **Legal Steps to Change Zoning in Westminster:** TM – Noted the procedural process in the packet. In conversation with legal council, Larry Slason relayed the amendment/modifications are no different from the zoning bylaw amendment process generally. Craig Allen believes to go back to where the Town previously was regarding two to five acre lots would be in the best interest of the Town. Phil Savoy – Not totally convinced that legal council is correct. He believes that Westminster is one of the Towns where the Select Board can make changes to zoning. Some Towns can make changes, some cannot. Christian Blake believes zoning is ‘totally out of whack’. Peter Barrett - as the Town is in the process of approving a new Town Plan, there will be public hearings to express thoughts, especially about both sides of Route 5. Zoning in the Town will be added to the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.
 - B. **Year End Budget Report Update:** TM – Has discussed with NEMRC end of the year moving money around. The TM’s suggestions are noted on the current balance sheet in Select Board packet. Craig Allen made the motion to take 38k from prior years fund balance and add to the current balance in the checking account, making the balance, after all expenses paid, approximately \$140k. Paul Banik seconded, the motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Craig Allen and seconded by Peter Barret to motion passed unanimously.
 - C. **Trash Stickers: (non-profits)** Craig made the motion to issue 52 trash stickers/tags to listed (information in packet) not-for profits; Westminster Fire Station, Westminster Institute, Westminster West Library, Westminster West Church, Christian Family Circle Church and the First Congregational Church. Peter Barrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that many of these listed non-profits helped the Town quite a lot, in one way or other.

D. **Town Trash Ordinance:** TM – Larry Slaton (legal council) proposed changes (in packet), is definitely ‘bigger and better’. Paul Banik made the motion and Peter Barrett seconded to accept the ordinance and authorize chair to sign. Passed unanimously. This ordinance will be put in place as of 7/1/2015, this effective 60 days here-of.

Part II of 5D – Craig Allen made a motion to authorize Chair to sign an agreement re: Solid Waste Pricing System for the Town of Westminster, VT. Peter Barrett seconded, passed unanimously.

E. **Solar Tax Exemption:** - Ordinance Change Update – TM – None, waiting for more information. This item was tabled and carried to the agenda for the next meeting.

F. **Town Plan Review:** TM – Referred to packet information. Per legal council, Larry Slason, as written, Plan does not have punch without more legal terms. Planning Commission did a nice job. Mr. Slason does have recommendations. The TM requested the Select Board read the Plan as written, ask questions and send to him before the July 6h meeting.

G. **Contractual Matter:** (3) Craig Allen made the motion, Peter Barrett seconded to go into executive session at a later time in the meeting to discuss three contractual matters, passed unanimously.

6. **New Business:**

A. The Appointment of Listers: TM – NEMRC has settled in, doing a very good job. Grand List is lodged. F.Y.I. At the next meeting the board will be provided w/error/omission information to re-evaluate rental properties. This is provided by the State. In addition, there are six applicants for three lister positions. The Select Board will decide on stipend and list of duties will be provided by NEMRC and available at the next meeting.

B. Cemetery Plot Sales: TM – Information in packet. Typical sale of cemetery plot requires signature of Select Board and notary seal.

7. **Manager’s Report:** 1. June 10th meeting taped well, external speakers are required for good audio. 2. Tax Sales are 6/25/15 (information in packet) there are seven properties to be auctioned having a total outstanding balance of \$122,529.01. 3. HB has offered the Town employees and the Select Board as employees an oil price of \$2.299 (cost to town) plus .20 or \$2.499. 4. 120 recycling/trash totes have been sold. 5. In this weeks *Gazette* is an article, composed by Karen and Russ on trash collection and holidays. The informational meetings have gone very well. The Select Board complimented Russ on very clear trash/recycling informational meeting held prior to the Select Board meeting. 6. Grand List lodged 7/17/15. 7. On 9/12/15, F.Y.I. A reenactment of Westminster Massacre will be held at 1:30 p.m. There will be more details provided as available. 8. The Westminster Center School will take care of their own plowing and trash. The principal has requested a white line painted on the side of School Street from the School to the end of the street for children to walk to the library, institute etc. Russ will discuss with Road Foreman. Requested also is a cross walk at the end of school street. This is a

State question/consideration. 9. FEMA –Reports for reception center drill were positive.
The drill and Mitigation Plan were reviewed and accepted/signed by FEMA personnel.

8. **Boards and Commissions** – None

9. **Other Business** – None

10. **Date of Next Meeting: July 8, 2015**

11. The Meeting moved to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.



Minutes prepared by Millie Barry

6/26/2015