

## Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting

7:00 pm

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Town Offices

Present: Chair, Kathy Barrett, Vice Chair, Roger Boise, Carole Hall, Doug Tolles, Treasurer, Barb Torian and Clerk, Pam Kingman

Absent: Charlie Roy

Visitors: Aaron Guyette, Susie Leonard, Jess Whitney, Dale Hastings and Jim Walsh

### AGENDA RESULTS:

#### VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. **Lister, Susie Leonard** - Robert Turner is in the process of redoing the town tax maps; because many inconsistencies have been found, they are asking the Selectboards approval of an extension until November 1, 2014. Roger Boise made a motion to authorize the extension of the tax map contract with Robert Turner, seconded by Carole Hall. 4 yes / 0 no

**Susie** also had new information about how **VELCO** has been taxed. Every year VELCO submits an Affidavit to Property Valuation and Review listing the value of their properties in each town. It has been discovered that between 2009 – 2013 VELCO overvalued the Shelburne property by 14 million dollars and undervalued 5 other towns; which are Ferrisburgh, Vergennes, South Burlington, Charlotte and New Haven. The Ferrisburgh Selectboard has hired Attorney, Charles Merriman to look into the matter. Mr. Merriman asked Appraiser, Justus Devries (former PVR employee) to come and talk the Listers from each of the affected towns. Merriman feels if all the towns pulled together, they'd have a 50/50 chance of winning a tort case against VELCO. New Haven could be looking at a refund from VELCO of approximately \$28,680. All 5 towns would split the attorney costs, and if we did not want to go past phase one, we can opt out. The Selectboard will discuss the matter further in executive session later this evening.

2. **Aaron Guyette Representing VTRANS – Update on Nash Bridge** – VTRANS is in the final planning stage. The bridge will go from a 3 span down to 2. They will be installing a circular span in the center of the bridge, which will create better water flow. They will be doing a lot of precast construction, so once the circular span is in, and the old bridge is removed; the new bridge installation should be quick. VTRANS will have the contractor hire a professional engineer for the project. They were hoping to put the job out to bid next spring, but they do not feel there is enough time coordinates the precast and the engineering documents to put it out to bid by spring and still be able to do the construction within 2015. VTRANS would like to put it out to bid in the summer of 2015, have

all fabrication done over the winter, and do construction during the summer of 2016. Originally they thought they would keep one lane open during the installation of the circular span. However it would make more sense to close the bridge completely during all of the construction, not only for safety reasons, but faster bridge completion. VTRANS is still working on finalizing the plans and fabrication drawings. VTRANS is in having the utility companies in the area acquire the necessary easements for relocations. VTRANS has secured their right of ways for the project.

3. **Anne Gleason from the Mary Johnson Children's Center – Facilities use for 2014 – 2015.** Anne called and left a message on the Town Office phone; she had car trouble and could not make the meeting. She will be sending the Selectboard a letter and a certificate of Insurance.
4. **Dale Hastings and Jess Whitney –** They came home from vacation to find out John Meshna is installing a solar array on Dog Team Road right next to their house. They came in to discuss the matter with Zoning Administrator, Dave Wetmore, who told them his hands are tied. Dave encouraged them to write a letter to the Public Service Board requesting hearing. They mailed that letter out as well as several to local Representatives and Senators. So far only Harvey Smith has responded. Smith agrees with Hastings/Whitney that it is too close to their property line, making it very intrusive. Hastings/Whitney have also contacted Suncommon, the letter they received back said they would move the closest row away from their house. For the Hastings/Whitney's this is not enough. They feel Mr. Meshna has a significant amount of land that the array could be relocated to, and not right up against their property line. Discussion about how many solar arrays are coming into town; when there is no benefit to the town. Hastings/Whitney will let the Selectboard know if and when the public hearing is scheduled.

#### **TOWN OFFICE BUSINESS:**

1. Assistant Zoning Administrator position – The Selectboard will conduct interviews on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 beginning at 9:30 am in the Town Offices.
2. Carole Hall made a motion to authorize Treasurer, Barb Torian to enroll the Town of New Haven in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

1. Roger Boise made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 8/9/14, in the amount of \$3,897.51, seconded by Doug Tolles. 4 yes / 0 no
2. Carole Hall made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 8/16/14, in the amount of \$3,319.70, seconded by Doug Tolles. 4 yes / 0 no

3. Roger Boise made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 8/19/14, in the amount of \$37,579.76, seconded by Carole Hall. 4 yes / 0 no
4. Roger Boise motion to approve the July Financial statements, for the Road and General Funds with one change to include the Treasurer's health insurance with all employees' health insurance costs. Motion seconded by Carole Hall. 4 yes / 0 no

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

1. **Road Update** – The Crew is all done with ditching on Lime Kiln Road, and has been grading roads.

The Road Crew helped out at the Munger Street Cemetery, cutting brush and chipping it.

Roger has not heard from D&F Paving or Pike Industries Re: paving

2. **Equipment Update** – Two of the trucks are coming due for inspection.
3. **Letter to the Four Hills Farm** – Katie Reilley drafted a letter to the Hills about the dirt they trucked in on Lime Kiln Road and Leduc Road in order for them to plant right up to the road. Roger took photos and shared them with the Selectboard, in the dirt there is debris and it is all in the Towns right of way. Doug Tolles made a motion to authorize Kathy Barrett to sign the letter to the 4-Four Hills Farm, requesting removal of the dirt by August 31, or be billed by the Town for the removal of dirt, seconded by Carole Hall. 4 yes / 0 no
4. **VT Gas** – Katie Reilley made up a packet for the Board to read and discuss at the September 2, 2014 meeting regarding Road Access Permits.
5. There was an incident on Munger St where a road sign was purposely hit by a car and the two road signs were damaged in the process. Roger Boise will call John Freidin and offer him the choice of paying the town directly or going through Freidins' insurance. Replacement cost for the pole and signs are \$225.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Letter from Planning Commission Re: Dupoise property – This was discussed in executive session – no action taken.
2. State Education Tax Rate – Doug Tolles attended a conference regarding the State Education tax rate. Enrollment in public schools is declining, but the number of staff and faculty seems to stay the same.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our property taxes go to schools. He feels the public needs to be better informed about how broken the system is.
3. North South Highway - Nothing new to report

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

1. The minutes from August 5, 2014 were deferred to the next meeting for some corrections.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Carole Hall made a motion to go into executive session at 9:10 pm to discuss litigation, seconded by Doug Tolles. 4 yes / 0 no

Doug Tolles made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:05, seconded by Carole Hall. 4 yes / 0 no

Doug Tolles made a motion to approve joining with the 4 other towns in the phase 1 litigation concerning VELCO' s underappraisal within the Town of New Haven, with no further obligation to move forward beyond that. Motion seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no

No action taken on the Planning Commission recommendation re: Dupoise.

**MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Solar Arrays
2. VLCT – Property Valuation
3. Madden Correspondence
4. Sheriff's Activity Logs
5. VLCT – Open Meeting Law Workshop, September 10, 2014 in Montpelier

Adjourn: 10:10pm


Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved:



Chair, Kathy Barrett

  
Vice Chair, Roger Boise



Carole Hall

  
~~Charlie Roy~~

  
Doug Tolles