

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting

7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Town Offices

Present: Chair, Kathy Barrett, Vice Chair, Pam Marsh, Roger Boise, Kathleen Ready, Charlie Roy, Treasurer, Barb Torian and Clerk, Pam Kingman

Visitors: Eric Carter, Troy Paradee, Jim Moulton, Ed McGuire, Linda Sleeper, Alan Mayer

AGENDA RESULTS:

VISITORS BUSINESS:

- 1. Eric Carter and Troy Paradee who are members of the Mt. Abe Facilities Committee.** Eric and Troy are working with other people in the 5 town district who have concerns about the Mt. Abe building. They are part of a sub-committee for the district school board. They are working to get information out to the 5 town residents about the condition of Mt. Abe. Over the years there has been a lot of deferred maintenance, this committee is hoping to make repairs a reality. A full needs assessment has been done on the site condition, structural, plumbing, etc., along with the general use of the building and traffic flow. You can find more information on the new website: mtabebondproject.weebly.com. This committee has been working closely with teachers and school board members. The Committee is currently going around to the 5 town Select boards and School Boards to let them know what they are working on. There will be a forum in January with a presentation and question and answer period. They are hoping a decision on the building will be coming in the spring of 2014. They do not expect it to be ready for a bond vote in March. They are striving to get the word out throughout the 5 towns. The current bonds for the Middle School expansion and the wood heat are coming to an end in the next couple of years.
- 2. Jim Moulton from Addison County Transit Resource (ACTR), and Ed McGuire, ACTR Board member.** Jim handed out copies of the new ACTR bus schedule as of December 2013. They have decided they cannot do the transfers in New Haven on every trip, just part of the time, plus any requests they get. Linda Sleeper who rides the bus daily, and depends on the service is frustrated that the bus no longer stops in New Haven on the early morning route. It used to stop here, and because of this she said several of the riders now have to wait at the store (VGM) and flag the drivers down to get picked up on their way by to Bristol or Vergennes. The Selectboard wanted to be very clear they do not want the ACTR buses stopping on Town Hill Road at the Village Green Market at all. However, they felt that ACTR's decision to cut service to New Haven in half has

resulted in residents flagging the bus down at the VGM. Discussion about the Park n Ride in New Haven, and why ACTR has chosen to drive through New Haven and not stop. The buses travel through New Haven on every trip, why are they not stopping at the Park n Ride, it is not far from off of Route 17 at all? Mr. Moulton was unable to give the Board a satisfactory answer to this question. Pam Marsh said she assumed because of the fewer stops in New Haven, ACTR would reduce the amount of requested funds at Town Meeting. Nadine Barnicle told the Selectboard a few years ago that requested funds were based on ridership and stops. Jim Moulton assured Pam that other towns (Bristol, Middlebury, Vergennes and maybe Ferrisburgh) pay more than New Haven, and the amount is based on an analysis of use data, including Medicaid rides, not just stops and transfers. Jim said they are trying to meet the needs of all the towns, they acknowledge a gap in the midday service and this is a priority for their next service expansion. They will again use a consultant and find what works best. Kathy Barrett said she is concerned that ACTR has made up a schedule that they cannot even follow because of traffic. Discussed requested stops; ACTR does what they can to accommodate these requests. The Selectboard said they are feeling dissatisfied with the current bus service and asked to work to a happy medium.

3. **New Haven Fire Chief, Alan Mayer** is here with the Fire Dept.'s proposed budget for 2014. There will be no increases in 2014. They are currently integrating technical rescue services into their regular service. Alan went through the budget with the Selectboard, pointing out what will need to be replaced in the future.

The question arose about New Haven First Response, and whether or not they will be joining the Fire Department; if they are what happens to the money the Town has given First Response. Alan said more discussion between the Fire Dept. and the First Response will be forthcoming.

Alan pointed out some cosmetic issues with their side of the building; the Selectboard recommended Alan call our town handyman, Harold Tricou to have the issues looked at. The Selectboard thanked Alan for presenting a detailed budget.

Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the Fire Dept. using the Town Hall cafeteria and kitchen to hold their pancake breakfasts in Jan., Feb, March and April, 2014. They will supply their own dishwasher soap. Motion seconded by Roger Boise. 5 yes / 0 no

TOWN OFFICE BUSINESS:

1. **Suzy Roorda** – She wanted to touch base about the Town Hall. Aware the School has hired someone on a trial basis to clean the hall during the week.

When there is a function, the person renting it is expected to leave the hall the way they found it, as is stated on the town hall application. Suzy said she has spoken with Ryan from the after school program, and he had indicated they may want to use the kitchen in the future.

Suzy also brought up the sports (basketball, baseball and soccer) and wondered if they were considered a school activity with town funding or are they town activities. She has taken on the scheduling of the sports in the gym, which used to be done in cooperation with Julie Olson, the events coordinator at Beeman. Julie no longer works at Beeman. The signup sheets come in through the school, and get funneled to Suzy. She has then been working with the coaches of each sport.

Suzy said she has also put out mass emails to the teachers at Beeman inquiring as to when they may want to use the town hall for plays, etc. she has had no response. Pam Marsh said she should assume then that the school has priority over Town events; with the exception of Town Meeting and elections. However, if the school doesn't respond to her e-mails, she should go ahead and plan events requested by Town residents. Suzy asked for permission to purchase a small solar light to attach to her the keybox so folks can see it to pick up/ return the key to the town hall.

Suzy would like a chance to sit down with the Selectboard while it is budget time and talk about her hours and job description. The Selectboard will contact her.

2. Request from the New Haven Farm & Food Festival Committee – Suzy

Roorda said she has no interest in taking this on as a town event. The Committee has requested funds in the amount of \$1,500 to help defray costs for future events. The Selectboard denied the request, as this is not a town event. It is showcasing some of New Haven's agriculturally-related businesses.

3. Review Lawn Mowing and Ground Maintenance Bids:

- James Apgar from Lincoln: Total \$7,050.00 (no cemeteries included)
- Garrit Smits from Ferrisburg: Total \$12,440 (all properties)
- Allen Swain from New Haven: Total \$5,650, with an additional work billed at \$45.00 per hour (all properties, except Riverside Cemetery)
- George Crane from New Haven: Total \$ 3,000 (for just Riverside Cemetery)

Pam Marsh made a motion to accept Allen Swain's bid for a 3 year contract and George Crane's bid for a 3 year contract. Motion seconded by Roger Boise. 3 yes / 0 no

- 4. Budget – Treasurer, Barb Torian had prepared a detailed general fund budget. Roger Boise and Katie Reilley had also prepared a road budget. The Selectboard will take them home and look them over for the next meeting.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Pam Marsh made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 12/7/13, in the amount of \$3,772.71, seconded by Roger Boise. 5 yes / 0 no
2. Charlie Roy made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 12/14/13, in the amount of \$3,645.55, seconded by Pam Marsh. 5 yes / 0 no
3. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 12/17/13, in the amount of \$13,991.28
4. Pam Marsh made a motion to go to by-weekly payroll and move to Friday pay day, seconded by Kathleen Ready. 2 yes / 3 no (Boise, Barrett & Roy)
5. Roger Boise made a motion to accept payroll wages as written, seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 1 no (Marsh, only because it is before town meeting and the budget has not yet been approved)

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

1. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the fuel bid received from B & W Fuels at \$.14 over the mercantile price, seconded by Charlie Roy. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Boise). This was the only bid received.
2. **Road Update:** The Crew replaced the guard rail on North St. by the Martins house, and 2 days later someone hit it.
3. **Equipment Update:** The 2002 had an oil leak that they had fixed.
4. Phelps Engineering, Inc. – Signature required on the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Quarry Road Bridge project. Chair Kathy Barrett signed on behalf of the Selectboard.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Addison County Sheriff's Dept. Questionnaire – The Selectboard would like to see clearer reports, fewer warnings and more tickets issued.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to hold their annual bike ride that goes through New Haven in August 2014, seconded by Roger Boise. 5 yes / 0 no

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Pam Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes from 11/5/13, seconded by Roger Boise. 3 yes / 2 abstentions (Barrett / Roy)
2. Pam Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/3/13, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Roy)

MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Thank you from Hospice Volunteer Services
2. Addison County Sheriff's Activity Logs
3. VT Association of Chiefs of Police
4. VLCT – Municipal Priorities

Adjourn: 10:10pm
Respectfully submitted
Pam Kingman
Approved:

Kathleen Barrett
Chair, Kathy Barrett

Vice Chair, Pam Marsh

Roger Boise
Roger Boise

Kathleen Ready

Charlie Roy
Charlie Roy

