

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting

6:15 pm

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Town Offices

Present: Chair, Kathy Barrett, Vice Chair, Steve Dupoise, John Roleau, Doug Tolles, Jim Walsh, Treasurer, Barb Torian and Clerk Pam Kingman

Visitors: Kermit Blaisdell, Neil Allen, Jen Baker, Kathleen Ready, Bridget Kipp, Dean Gilmore, Bev Landon, Norma Norland and Polly Darnell

The Selectboard met with Outside appraiser, Kermit Blaisdell at 6:15 pm for a performance review. Kermit did not request the review to be in executive session

- Discussed current CLA at 100.6%, with the dispersion good, we will not need another reappraisal for a few years.
- Discussed Kermit's relationship with the current Listers. Jon Christiano and Linda Cousino are easy to work with; he and Jay Best have been working through some issues.
- Kermit explained how his job, and the job of the Listers is challenging, it requires a lot of attention to detail. Kermit has had to make some corrections to the Listers work, but overall they are doing ok.
- Each of the Listers is "specializing" in one area, while teaching each other what they have learned, while Kermit helps them continue to learn.
- The Board asked Kermit to work to keep up a professional atmosphere while in the office.

Meeting adjourned to 7:00 pm

Adjustments to the Agenda: Budget meeting schedule / Brookfield Service – generators / road access permit / mowing contract / new sick leave laws

AGENDA RESULTS:

VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. Bev Landon gave Road Commissioner John Roleau a binder of information about the Rattlin' Bridge on Pearson Road. John's great, great grandfather helped install the original bridge. John and the board thanked Bev for the book.
2. **Open Professional Appraisers bids:** One bid was received from Kermit Blaisdell for a year contract fee of \$16,800; an increase of \$800 from last year. Steve Dupoise made a motion to accept Kermit Blaisdell's bid at \$16,800 for 1

year, which breaks down to \$1,400 per month. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. 2 yes (Barrett / Dupoise) / 2 no (Tolles / Walsh) 1 abstention (Roleau) Discussion, Doug Tolles said the Selectboard was given information during executive session about some information about language used by Kermit that was not acceptable. Bev Landon said she was next in line for her grievance with the listers, and said she could hear what had transpired. She said the individual who was grieving can be an irritating individual, and is very hard headed. Treasurer, Barb Torian said it is awfully late in the year to consider someone new. Barb Torian asked former Town Clerk, Bev Landon to talk about Kermit's accuracy over the years. Bev said ever since Kermit has worked for the town his accuracy has been at 100%. He is an exceptional appraiser compared to others. Bridget Kipp said her bank appraisal was much lower than the town's appraisal, and would like to see the town use a different appraiser.

Doug Tolles made a motion to send the Professional Appraiser job out to bid again, seconded by Jim Walsh. 3 yes / 2 no (Barrett / Dupoise)

3. **Neil Allen – VAST trail off of Pearson Road to Route 17** – A couple of weeks ago, Neil approached the Selectboard about signing the form to protect the town should any snowmobiler get injured while riding on town owned property. Kathy Barrett received an email from town attorney, Cindy Hill, her concerns were more about what the townspeople would like to do with the legal trail. She said the Board should consider a policy about the appropriate uses of legal trails within Town. Hill also had concerns about the cemetery that exists about 200 yards off of the trail. Neil said the snowmobilers don't go anywhere near it. Kathy Barrett asked Jim Walsh if the trail ran through his property, he said it did. Kathy asked him to recuse himself, because of the conflict of interest. Jim said he feels he did not have to recuse himself because there is no financial gain, and therefore no conflict.

Doug Tolles made a motion to sign the permission form for VAST, with the start date 12/6/16 end date 4/15/16, motion seconded by John Roleau. 5 yes / 0 no

4. **Alden Harwood** – Could not attend
5. **Take action under section 10B “the significant change clause”**. New negotiations with Vermont Green Line with the new information in regards to the new larger VELCO lines being required for this project. Steve Dupoise spoke to Richard Saudek about this. Because of the sensitive nature of some of the material within the filings, only someone like Bob Amalang could gain access to them. Bob informed Richard that it could be a year or more before we see movement in this project. The System Impact Study revealed no new information. Steve said so far the ISO has indicated there may be an upgrade to the size of the wires on the VELCO lines, but that is not new information. Kathleen Ready asked how townspeople will know any new information, how will

the Board get that out to the public. Doug Tolles said if the project is going to require upgrades to poles and wires, then that is a significant upgrade. Doug said he has access to some new information that may include making these changes and costing VGL up to \$120 million dollars. Burlington Electric has just filed to intervene; now they want a place at the table too. Steve reiterated, that town has filed for intervenor status. Bridget Kipp brought up the fact that VGL could be a target for a terrorist attack, but all agreed, we already have VT Gas running through town and an explosives plant. Polly Darnell demanded the Board, or Steve Dupoise give the townspeople an update every 2 weeks provided there is something to report on. Steve said he can write up synopsis of what he hears from attorney Saudek, forward it to Pam Kingman, and she can put it on the Towns website. Steve said there is currently no buyer for the project. Kathleen Ready asked who took Carole Hall's place as a contact person. It was explained that when things slowed down, Carole stepped down until the projects regains strength. Kathleen suggested another member of the community should be involved; she was willing to do it. Doug Tolles said there is the possibility that he or Steve Dupoise may not be re-elected next year, and another member of the Selectboard should be considered. Doug Tolles made a motion to appoint Jim Walsh as the other point person for VGL with Steve Dupoise, seconded by John Roleau. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Barrett)

6. **North / South Highway** – Doug Tolles contacted LaRose Surveying, he shared the letter from LaRose with the other Board members. LaRose asked for a \$2,000 retainer to put in pipes, and produce a Mylar for the town, cost will not exceed \$5,000. Norma Norland, whose property abuts the old road asked what the Board thought they are going to accomplish by having the road surveyed, and why now. She said the only ones who want to use it are Tom Fisher and his grandson, and they already have access. Kathy Barrett said the Board is trying to establish exactly where the road is. Norma cited the Supreme Court Case Underhill vs. Demers, involving a Class 4 Road where the Supreme Court found in favor of the town by not having to maintain it for the few folks that live on the road. Doug dismissed it because the Underhill case does not speak to a Legislative Highway. Discuss the use of the road, the wetland area, and the ongoing issue of town owned property that the Board is trying to make sure doesn't disappear, or meld into someone else's land. Bev Landon protests the Board spending \$5,000 of taxpayers' money to do a survey that will only benefit those living nearby. Steve Dupoise said some of these old lands the town owns, where there are no roads leading to them, the town should get rid of them, give them to an abutter, and get them back on the tax rolls. The use of a surveyor was voted on and approved at a previous Selectboard meeting. John Roleau said the survey is just to define where the road is, we'll get the pins set and discuss the

next step. Doug Tolles said all the abutters would receive a certified letter letting them know about the surveyors being out there.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **R.J. Turner – Parcel Mapping Contract:** Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the contract with R.J. Turner, to do the tax maps and review the town line, public roads and waterways; amount not to exceed \$5,200. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. 5 yes / 0 no
2. **Finance and Maintenance Agreement with the State of Vermont re: Railroad crossing at Campground Road** – All agree the crossing needs to happen, but not at the towns expense. The Board would like clarification on the issue. Pam Kingman will email Chris Cole to invite him to a future meeting.
3. **2017 Town Attorney – out to bid** – Pam Kingman has put the ad in the Addison Independent and emailed or mailed requests for bids to numerous attorneys.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. John Roleau made a motion to approve the minutes from October 18, 2016, seconded by Steve Dupoise. 5 yes / 0 no
2. John Roleau made a motion to approve the minutes from November 1, 2016, seconded by Jim Walsh. 5 yes / 0 no
3. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the minutes from November 15, 2016, seconded by Jim Walsh. 5 yes / 0 no
4. Defer minutes from November 29, 2016.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 11/19/16, in the amount of \$3,553.11, seconded by John Roleau. 5 yes / 0 no
2. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 11/26/16, in the amount of \$2,953.65, seconded by Doug Tolles. 5 yes / 0 no
3. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 12/3/16, in the amount of \$3,335.89, seconded by Jim Walsh. 5 yes / 0 no
4. Jim Walsh made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 12/1/16, in the amount of \$26,784.25, seconded by John Roleau. 5 yes / 0 no
This pay order included Marshalls alarm installation of the low temp alarm. Jim Walsh said the agreement with Alden Harwood was the town pay for installation, ANeSU will pay for the monitoring) John Roleau made a motion to pay the bill from Marshalls for \$246, which is included in the pay orders, and get reimbursed from the school, seconded by Steve Dupoise. 5 yes / 0 no

5. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 12/5/16, in the amount of \$2,831.71 (tax refunds & payroll taxes), seconded by John Roleau. 5 yes / 0 no
6. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the pay order for the surveyor for the North South Highway in the amount of \$2000.00, seconded by John Roleau. 5 yes / 0 no
7. Selectboard received copies of the financials and bank statement.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Solar discussion:** Last Friday, Doug and Cindy Hill responded to 4 different dockets. Livingston's have filed their CPG today, it is a huge document.
2. **Lee Litigation – decision from the Environmental Court** – This is now a public document and we are within the appeal period, which ends December 17, 2016. The Court gave the Town everything we asked for, Lee must pay the town approximately \$13k in fines, he is expected to move 15 trailers, (9 may remain), remove the elevated display area, fix the driveway and fix all the slopes. If these things are not done by next summer, Lee will be forced to remove tons of fill. Lee is also required to go before the DRB for a Site Approval; the Judge imposed specific dates for compliance. Lee recently moved in more fill, he has filed for an application for that. Once the appeal period ends the town should receive the money.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

1. Road Update:

- The last snow storm made roads slicker than expected. The next storm is moving in on Wednesday, the crew will be coming into work at 4 am to get a jump on it.
- Outdoor projects are winding down.

2. Equipment Update:

- Loader is done; Chris LaPete will go and get it as soon as he is able.
- New poly fenders on all the trucks, this will help fight rust
- New battery in the MAC
- Snow pusher – would like to sell, valued at approximately \$2000 - \$2500. John will put it on Craig's List.

3. Internet service at the shed – Crew having difficulties connecting to wifi. Dean Gilmore said the Fire Dept is having issues as well; Ever since Xfinity came along, the service has changed. It was supposed to be a free service to the Fire Dept., they are now being charged for. Alan Mayer is looking into it. Once it's straightened out the Road Crew should get service.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Brookfield Service for all town owned generators. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the 1 year contract to have Brookfield Service come twice a year to service all town owned generators, in the amount of \$1,480. Motion seconded by John Roleau. 5 yes / 0 no
2. Road Access Permit: John Roleau made a motion to approve the road encroachment permit for a second driveway, which does not require a culvert for Doug Tolles and GERALYN McBride on Hallock Road. Motion seconded by Jim Walsh. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Tolles)
3. Benefits & Paid sick Leave to Town Clerk & Treasurer – Doug spoke to attorney, Carl Andeer at VLCT. Doug shared the email with the board which states the town is not required to provide insurance to the Clerk or Treasurer, as they are not considered employees. Kathy Barrett asked Doug to forward the email with the attachments about the sick leave to the rest of the Board.
4. Wage Sheet – Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the wage sheet, seconded by John Roleau. 5 yes / 0 no
5. Budget Meetings: The December 20, 2016 meeting will begin at 5:00 pm, to go over the budgets, and the rest of the meeting will be limited to only critical items.
6. The Board went through the first draft of the Road fund budget. Pam Kingman will find out if Overweight Permits are necessary.

MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Public Hearing on the Town Plan is on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria.

The next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 will begin at 5:00 pm to go over the budgets.

Adjourn: 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted:


Pam Kingman

Approved:



 Chair, Kathy Barrett

Vice Chair, Steve Dupoise



 John Roleau



 Jim Walsh

 Doug Tolles