

## Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting

7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Town Offices

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

Visitors: by phone, Senator, Chris Bray, Jim Walsh, Francie Caccavo, Paul Horn and Jed Malcolm

### AGENDA RESULTS:

#### VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. **Senator Chris Bray via speaker phone** to explain bill S.238, which is about taxing natural gas infrastructure to support the Clean Energy Fund. He and Senator Lyons drafted the bill together to get the conversation going about how these large infrastructures are taxed. Their overall goal is to find a steady stream of funding for the Clean Energy Fund, which, until now, has largely been funded by VT Yankee. Their idea is to use the money from the build out of the natural gas system – a fossil fuel system - to fund the State's commitment to clean energy. Chris said many of the towns that the gas pipeline is going through are not getting anything in return. He would like to see 50% of the receipts that go into the Clean Energy Fund from the pipeline assessment go to the state and 50% to be made available for clean energy projects in the towns who host the gas pipeline. There are currently 3 or 4 different valuation schemes for assessing the natural gas infrastructure. He would like to have the state use one consistent scheme that results in a higher value and revenue. While Town Listers will not be bound by this valuation scheme, it may provide an example for them to use in taxing the pipeline property within their towns. This may offer the towns a way to get more revenue as well. Chris went on to say the pipeline is allowed by the IRS to depreciate to a zero value within 15 years, even though it has an expected lifespan of 70 years. The valuation scheme that he is looking at does not use the IRS depreciation schedule. Planning Commission member Jim Walsh has spent quite a bit of time on the natural gas pipeline, speaking with representatives, etc. Jim was told by VT Gas Representative, Steve Wark the estimated taxes from the pipeline running through New Haven were \$377,283.06. Chris Bray said the valuation in some towns has been high and in others low. There is a floor built into the depreciation. He is doing his homework on different schemes, and is happy to share his findings with the town. He is developing these for the State's assessment, not the towns'. The bill will go next to the Finance Committee; they deal with finance and tax. That could take about 3-4

weeks before there is a formal change. What Chris would like to see happen is the State would hold the towns' annual share of the money in the Clean Energy Fund for a maximum of 3 years. Within that time, the affected towns could access the money to use for clean energy projects. The Town would have first dibs on the money, and then citizens could access it if there are left over funds. Chris said this could help Addison County be the greenest County in the state. Pam Marsh asked Chris to forward any taxation information to Pam Kingman. The Selectboard expressed their concern that the education tax to the town would not be reduced if it went to the Clean Energy Fund. Chris indicated that they have had this concern expressed by other towns. He is looking at perhaps assessing an additional tax to fund the Clean Energy Fund and use the Education tax to fund the Education Fund. He will keep the Selectboard and any interested parties informed of changes as the bill moves forward through the committee process. The Selectboard thanked Chris for his time and hard work.

2. **Planning Commission Chair, Francie Caccavo** – The Planning Commission held their public hearing on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 for their proposed zoning map amendment to the Horn property. The Planning Commission is recommending the Selectboard move forward with the change to the zoning map. They want to keep this change separate from others that they are working on because they are concerned about mixing it up. They want to correct this error first. Francie said John Madden spoke up at the hearing, he is sure the process is flawed. John has been working off of the 2006 map, and has refused to acknowledge the new planning map, adopted with the new Town Plan in 2011. The new town plan has separate maps for these sections. Francie has spoken with town attorney, Cindy Hill who confirmed that the PC has been proceeding properly. Francie is concerned that John will try to stall everything, stretching out the process for the Horns. Francie is also concerned that if the Selectboard doesn't act on it soon, it will be after Town Meeting and there will be a new Selectboard.. The earliest the Selectboard could hold a public hearing is on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. Barb Torian asked Francie if the PC is willing to speed things along for the next person who comes along. Francie said she sees it as two different scenarios, because this is correcting an error in the tax map that was made by ACRPC in 2006.

Pam Marsh made a motion to hold a public hearing on the zoning amendment on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 7:00PM in the Town Hall cafeteria. Upon conclusion the Selectboard will meet with the agenda of taking action on the Planning Commission's recommendation. Motion seconded by Kathleen Ready.  
5 yes / 0 no

3. **Jim Walsh** – Handed out the latest filing on VT Gas. VT Gas has compromised on the decibel levels at 50 from the gate station.

He wanted the Selectboard to know how much he and the Planning Commission appreciate being able to contact town attorney Cindy Hill throughout the pipeline process and on other issues. He said Cindy has worked very hard on this with him.

4. **We have one opening for a full delegate to the ACRPC, and two openings for Alternates.** Harvey Smith is currently a Delegate on the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC). When it comes time for them to vote on the natural gas pipeline, Harvey will not be able to vote because the pipeline is going through his property. Jim is interested in serving on this committee along with Rod Case. (Both of them filled out volunteer forms) Kathleen Ready made a motion to appoint Jim Walsh as a Delegate, and Rod CAs as an Alternate to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, seconded by Charlie Roy. 5 yes / 0 no. Pam Marsh wanted it noted that the Selectboard sincerely appreciates all of the time and effort Jim has put in on this VT Gas pipeline.

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

1. Sign off on Grand List – Cannot do because Rothschild has taken his grievance to the state level.
2. Cafeteria Floor tiles – Several tiles have been damaged in the cafeteria. The Selectboard asked Pam Kingman to get an estimate on tiles for replacement.
3. Assistant Dog Warden – Harold Tricou has expressed an interest to Wayne Marcelle. Pam Kingman will contact him. Mary Emilo also expressed an interest in assisting Wayne Marcelle. Ms. Emilo lives in Shoreham, which may provide a barrier to swift response. The Selectboard made no decision at this time.
4. Roger Boise made a motion to accept Middlebury Fence quote to replace a portion of the fence on the Town Green for \$428.80, to be installed in the spring. Seconded by Kathleen Ready. This cost will be reimbursed by the insurance company of the individual who damaged the fence. 5 yes / 0 no
5. Charlie Roy made a motion to approve the Liquor and Tobacco license for Coco Mart (Jiffymart), seconded by Kathy Barrett. 5 yes / 0 no on the liquor license; 4 yes/1 no (Marsh) on the tobacco license.

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

1. Pam Marsh made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 2/4/14, in the amount of \$22,133.93, seconded by Charlie Roy. 5 yes / 0 no
2. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/25/14, in the amount of \$3,290.84, seconded by Charlie Roy. 5 yes / 0 no
3. Charlie Roy made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 2/1/14 in the amount of \$4,625.33, seconded by Pam Marsh. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Boise)

4. Quote from Forte Computers for updating them to Windows 7, as well as a new laptop to be used for by the all the Boards for presentations. Charlie Roy made a motion to purchase the laptop from Forte Computers in the amount of \$884.33, which includes set up and software. Motion seconded by Pam Marsh. 5 yes / 0 no

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

1. **Road Update:** The road crew has been thawing culverts. Someone recently hit the guardrails on North St. across the street from the Martins.
2. **Equipment Update:** Roger ordered a new chop saw to cut steel. The road crew is in the process of building a welding table. The crew has also been using up some old paint to paint the inside of the shop.
3. Roger Boise made a motion to adopt the Vermont Town Road & Bridge Standards, seconded by Charlie Roy. 5 yes / 0 no
4. Roger Boise made a motion to have Harold Tricou do the required work on the Fire Station for the amount of \$2,709.00. Motion seconded by Kathleen Ready. 5 yes / 0 no
5. State of Vermont, Resurfacing on Route 17. Selectboard Chair Kathy Barrett signed off on the completed project.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Vermont Prevent Child Abuse is looking to plant pinwheel gardens around the state to raise money. The Selectboard chose not to participate.
2. Pam Marsh made a motion to allow the cycling event called Vermont Grand Fondo on June 14, 2014 to use some of New Havens roads; seconded by Roger Boise. 5 yes / 0 no
3. Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) – New regulations require the chair of the Selectboard to take the required training in order for the town to receive FEMA funds.

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS:**

1. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the minutes from January 7, 2014, seconded by Roger Boise. 5 yes / 0 no
2. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the minutes from January 14, 2014, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Roy)
3. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the minutes from January 21, 2014, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Roy)

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Pam Marsh made a motion to go into executive session at 8:50 pm to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Charlie Roy. 5 yes / 0 no

Pam Marsh made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:05 pm, seconded by Kathleen Ready. 5 yes / 0 no. No action taken.

**MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Correspondence from Deppman & Foley Re: Dupoise Property
2. VT Public Service Board – Solar Array at Misty Knoll Farm
3. Emergency Management upcoming training
4. Correspondence from J. Madden Re: Horn property

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

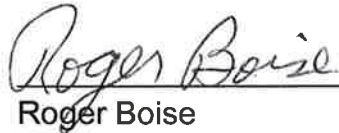
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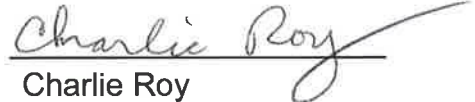
Chair, Kathy Barrett



Vice Chair, Pam Marsh

  
Roger Boise

Kathleen Ready

  
Charlie Roy

