

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting

7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Town Offices

Present: Chair, Kathy Barrett, Vice Chair, Carole Hall, Steve Dupoise (via Skype) Doug Tolles, Jim Walsh, Treasurer, Barb Torian and Clerk, Pam Kingman

Visitors: Road Commissioner, Jeff Terry, Mark Pedersen, Dean Gilmore, Alan Mayer, Eugene Cousino, Jay Best, Jon Christiano, Mark Livingston, Jim McClay, Dan Monger and Suzy Roorda

Adjustments to the Agenda - ** Vault lights / parking lot lighting / Lee **

AGENDA RESULTS:**ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT:**

- 1. Road Update:** The road crew has been focused on each small storm that we have gotten.
- 2. Equipment Update:** All equipment is running smoothly right now. The crew is waiting for the "Grizzly" to be done.
- 3. Pike Agreement:** Jim Walsh is still waiting to hear from Pikes about the agreement.
- 4. PACIF grant application:** This is for safety lights that would be used on the roads so that a flagman would not be needed. Total cost for the lights is \$11,000; the grant would cover approximately half the cost. If we don't get the grant, we will not spend \$11k to purchase them.
- 5. Road Commissioner help wanted ad:** Katie Reilley has written up an ad to put in the local newspaper. The Board agreed to change the required references to 3, and the received date will be changed to February 16, 2016. It will be posted on the website, Front Porch Forum, and in the Addison Independent for 3 publications.
- 6. Dean Gilmore wanted to know why New Haven uses gravel on the dirt roads;** he said it can cause broken windshields. Jeff Terry responded that New Haven has always used gravel on its dirt roads. Dean also witnessed one of our town trucks plowing and sanding Otter Creek HWY and the very end of Pearson Rd (which is in the town of Waltham). Jeff Terry will speak to Scott Busier who maintains that route.

VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. **A letter to the Selectboard was received tonight from several neighbors directly affected by the proposed Anbaric converter station;** the letter was signed by approximately 20 neighbors. Kathy Barrett read the letter aloud. Several of the neighbors attended tonight's meeting, they all had concerns about their property values, and what the town could do to help them negotiate with Anbaric. Carole Hall and Steve Dupoise are the point people from the Selectboard to work directly with the town attorneys on the Anbaric project. They let the audience know they are actively working on this project and part of the negotiation, and Steve and Carole's goal is to have Anbaric talk directly with landowners. Kathy Barrett said the point people are working diligently to do what is best for the entire town. Steve Dupoise said they are not at liberty to discuss things publicly, if they do then they lose the power of negotiations. They are making progress and they hope the town is satisfied.
2. **Suzy Roorda** had submitted a request for an additional 3.5 hours be added to her job as Events Coordinator. Kathy Barrett sent a copy of the Events Coordinator job description to the Board members; Kathy read the job description aloud. Suzy said she needs more time to complete her job because she has taken on scheduling all the sports. This used to be coordinated with a school liaison, but that no longer happens. Discussed who was eligible to play sports through the school – it is open to Beeman kids as well as home schoolers. Jim Walsh asked if there was any fail stop on the furnace / or humidity detector to alert to someone's cell phone. Mark Livingston said he used to install them all the time when he was a plumber, and they are not very expensive. Suzy's request will be discussed at the upcoming budget meeting on Friday, January 8, 2016.
3. **Dean Gilmore** – Concerning the town newsletter, he feels there is no room in the newsletter for personal opinions. He would rather Front Porch Forum be utilized for opinions. He asked the Selectboard to remove that from the newsletter. There were mixed opinions amongst the Board, overall it was agreed to remove it. Kathy Barrett will speak to Jean Simmons who formats the newsletter.
4. **Mark Livingston** – Talked about the **repairs needed at the Fire Station:**
 - Lighting – There is a quote for the budget from Bolduc Electric, Mark will get the final number of lights from Victor.
 - Furnace – recently cleaned by Jackman's, the Fire Station is now on a yearly maintenance schedule with Jackman's.
 - Doors – There is a quote for the budget from Aaron Napoleon for door replacement.
 - The Road Crew did a great job cleaning up the ditches behind the building; they changed the pitch so the water runs away from the building. There is concern there may be mold inside the Station

from the water getting through. When Aaron Napoleon does the door replacement, he will open the walls up on that back wall to investigate.

- The Fire Station is in need of a new refrigerator – they are going to get a quote.

TOWN OFFICE BUSINESS:

- 1. Liquor Licenses:** **1)** Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the liquor license for Green Pasture Meats, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call taken, 5 yes / 0 no **2)** Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the liquor license for R.L. Vallee d/b/a/ Maplefields, seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
- 2. Town Hall Application:** **1)** Carole Hall made a motion to approve the Town Hall application for Bruce Gepfert to coach kid's basketball in the gym. This will be approximately 3 -10 people, for use whenever the space is available throughout the year. Motion seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no **2)** Carole Hall made a motion to approve the New Haven Volunteer Fire Dept. to host their pancake breakfasts on Sundays: Jan. 24 / Feb. 28 / Mar. 20 / Apr. 17, 2016. Motion seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no. Suzy Roorda wanted the Firemen to know there is a new dishwasher in the cafeteria, the brick soap will no longer work; they should to contact the school for usage.
- 3. Lister Contract:** Kathy Barrett read the Lister contract with outside appraiser, Kermit Blasidell aloud; just before the New Year, Kermit, Listers Jon Christiano and Jay Best and Selectboard Chair, Kathy Barrett all verbally agreed to the contract, although Kathy Barrett made it clear that the entire Selectboard would have to approve the contract. Discussed the contract terms, all thought Kermit did the job he was hired to do in the past, he has kept our CLA at over 100% for the past 3 years. Lister, Jay Best would prefer to contract with NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Center), they quoted us a lower contract price, and feels he could work better with NEMRC. Lister, Jon Christiano said he is in favor of contracting with Kermit as he is known entity; Kermit has worked for the town for numerous years, and this is a difficult time with 3 new Listers to change things. He would however like to have NEMRC come in on a monthly basis for training sessions; he feels this would be an added benefit. Jon is concerned about always getting a different person from NEMRC, that there would not be any continuity. Jay disagreed; he said they would assign a point person for New Haven. Discussed the personality conflict that exists in the Lister office, no one is totally blameless. The Board agreed they will discuss the 2017 contract this

summer, so it is not done at the last minute. Jim Walsh made a motion to hire outside appraiser, Kermit Blaisdell for 2016, based on the contract as written. The Board would also like to have a performance evaluation with Kermit during the contract period. Motion seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken buy roll call, 4 yes / 1 no (Tolles)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/2/16, in the amount of \$3,551.14, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
2. Carole Hall made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 12/30/15, in the amount of \$2.31, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
3. Jim Walsh made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 12/26/15, in the amount of \$5,319.14, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call taken, 5 yes / 0 no
4. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 12/19/15, in the amount of 3,557.10, seconded by Jim Walsh. Roll call taken, all in favor.
5. Jim Walsh made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 12/31/15, in the amount of \$32,617.73, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
6. Jim Walsh made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 12/29/15, in the amount of \$16,040.62, seconded by Doug Tolles. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
7. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 1/4/16, in the amount of \$25,498.07. Motion seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no This pay order includes property tax refunds due to state changes to current use, those changes also caused some landowners to have additional property tax bills issued at the end of December.
8. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the contract with Telling & Associates to conduct an outside audit, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
9. The Selectboard will look over the financial statements from December to discuss at the next meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the minutes from December 15, 2015, but he would like to see on the motions the names of those who voted no. Kathy Barrett agreed; there should be consistency. Minutes are deferred until the January 19, 2016 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Anbaric Update:** Carole Hall received confirmation from Attorney Richard Saudek that Anbaric will be providing funding for experts on sound, aesthetics etc. Anbaric will have no say in who the town hires. For example, this will help pay for our attorney fees. The town does not have a check in hand, so, at this point, the amount will not be divulged publically. Steve Dupoise made it clear this money is not for the surrounding neighbors, it is to help the town with experts to better help the town with the process of negotiation with Anbaric. Kathy Barrett thanked Carole and Steve for their work on this project.
2. **Solar Update:** Doug Tolles said the Selectboard needs to appoint someone to attend the solar meetings in Montpelier on January 14, 2016. They aesthetics expert will be there testifying, the Selectboard just needs a town representative. Carole Hall made a motion to authorize Doug Tolles to appoint someone to represent the town at the solar meeting on January 14, 2016, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
 Doug Tolles made a motion to have the Selectboard join Attorney, Cindy Hill in her comment letter regarding Act 99, this is in regards to the solar net metering changes coming in 2017. Motion seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
 Doug Tolles made a motion authorizing Selectboard chair, Kathy Barrett to sign the comment letter on Act 99 on behalf of the Selectboard, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
3. **Interim Zoning Bylaws:** Jim Walsh, Doug Tolles and Steve Dupoise had several changes; they gave them to Kathy Barrett who will pass them on to town attorney, Cindy Hill to look over.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget / budget schedule: The Selectboard will meet on Friday, January 8, at 3:00 pm in the town offices to go through the General fund and Road fund budgets.
2. Town Meeting Warning – This will be discussed at the January 8, 2016 meeting.
3. Vergennes Bypass; Vergennes Mayor, Bill Benton had proposed an alternate truck route to keep heavy truck traffic out of downtown Vergennes. The alternate route would be VT Route 22A, to Route 17 (Otter Creek HWY) into New Haven Junction onto Route 7. The town received a letter from Jeffrey Nelson and Paul Mahan who own Lucky Dog Farm on Route 17. In the letter they discuss numerous issues with having the truck route redirected along Route 17. Doug Tolles and Jim Walsh worked on a response letter. This will be added to the January 8, 2016 agenda.

4. Vermont Gran Fondo Bike Race June 2016 – Pam Kingman called the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and advised them the Nash Bridge will be under construction at the time of the race, and they would need to alter their route.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Parking lot light for back corner of Town Office lot – Jim Walsh and Doug Tolles noticed a car in that corner after a late Selectboard meeting. Pam Kingman met with Bolduc Electric, who suggested a solar street light, to be installed this spring.
2. Vault lights – Jim Walsh asked if the lights had been changed out. Pam Kingman said no, there is a quote from Bolduc Electric to change out the ballasts for new ones and go to LED, which will last about 25 years.
3. Mike Lee / New Haven Power Equipment has asked the town to waive the DRB application fee of \$400. Doug Tolles made a motion to waive the DRB application fee of \$400 for Mike Lee / New Haven Power Equipment as requested in his letter, seconded by Jim Walsh. Discussion: Doug Tolles said this is a terrible idea, as this has nothing to do with the current litigation. ^{Lee} He withdrew his application in March of 2015; the board feels they should not support this request. Vote taken by roll call, 0 yes / 4 no (Tolles / Hall / Dupoise / Walsh) / 1 abstention (Barrett) Doug Tolles will have Attorney Hill contact Mr. Lee's attorney.
4. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the corrected wage sheet, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call, 4 yes / 1 no (Barrett)

Carole Hall made a motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the towns negotiation with Vermont Green Line a/k/a Anbaric would clearly place this Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage, because the Selectboard risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the litigation in public. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. Vote taken by roll call, 4 yes / 1 no (Barrett)

Carole Hall made a motion to move into executive session at 9:50 pm to discuss the town's litigation with Vermont Green Line a/k/a Anbaric, under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call, 4 yes / 1 no (Barrett)

Doug Tolles made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:06 pm, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no

MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Property Valuation and Review Certified Equalized Property Value (effective 1/1/2016)
2. FY2016-2017 Municipal Assessments

The next scheduled meeting is on January 8 to work on the budget, the regular meeting will be held on January 19, 2016.


Adjourn: 10:07 pm

Respectfully submitted:

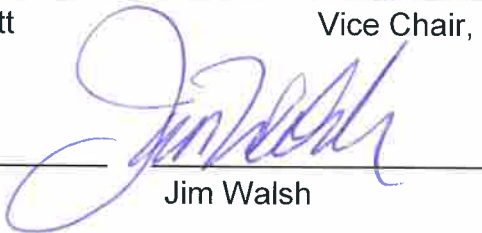
Pam Kingman

Approved:


Chair, Kathy Barrett


Vice Chair, Carole Hall

Steve Dupoise


Jim Walsh


Doug Tolles

