

**TOWN OF WILLISTON
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 17, 2020**

Approved December 1, 2020

***Meeting held by teleconference.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Macaig (Chair); Joy Limoge, Ted Kenney, Gordon St. Hilaire, Jeff Fehrs.
ADMINISTRATION: Erik Wells, Town Manager; Bruce Hoar, Public Works Director; Matt Boulanger, Planning Director.
OTHERS PRESENT: Participants in the meeting included Chloe Silverman, Ella Bohmann, Jake Bronner, Pam Cowan, Jason Starr (Williston Observer)

1. Call to Order

Chair Terry Macaig called the teleconference meeting to order at 7 PM.

2. Minutes

November 4, 2020

MOTION by Joy Limoge, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to approve the minutes of 11/4/20 with clarification that the impact of the errors and omissions to the 2020 Grand List of \$1,534.25 is a negative impact to the municipal tax. VOTING by roll call: 4 ayes, one abstention (Joy Limoge); motion carried.

3. Public Comment – General Issues

None.

4. Interviews/Appointments

Community Justice Center Board

The Selectboard interviewed three CVU students, Chloe Silverman, Ella Bohmann, and Jake Bronner, for positions on the Community Justice Center Board.

MOTION by Joy Limoge, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to appoint Chloe Silverman, Ella Bohmann, and Jake Bronner to the Community Justice Center Board for unexpired one year terms ending June 30, 2021. VOTING by roll call: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

5. Black Lives Matter Message Installation

Town Manager, Erik Wells, reported a coalition is being formed to take a community approach on holding conversations on the matters of social justice and racial equity with a focus on community strength and collaboration, sharing resources, and centralized organization and communication. A grant for \$3,000 has been received from the Vermont Community Foundation to help with this work.

There was discussion of the Selectboard overstepping its role of town governance by taking up a specific cause, and being prepared to do the same for other causes in the future. The Selectboard will review the information from VLCT on the subject of installing a sign or symbol. Erik Wells will ask the coalition to discuss the six bullet points in the proposal request received from community members in October, and the Selectboard will further discuss the proposal in 2021 after receiving input from the coalition.

6. Lamplite Waterline Replacement Bond

Jeff Fehrs recused himself.

MOTION by Joy Limoge, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to approve a step three loan application to the drinking water state revolving fund for construction of the Lamplite Acres waterline replacement project in the amount of \$2 million. VOTING by roll call: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

Jeff Fehrs returned to the meeting.

7. Holland Lane Acceptance Preliminary Discussion

The Selectboard received clarification of the public and private portions of Holland Lane (900' of private road). The town has not accepted any roads yet in Finney Crossing. Holland Lane has become a through road in the development.

Pam Cowan, resident, spoke in support of the recommendation for the town to take ownership of the privately owned portion of Holland Lane.

The Selectboard concurred with the recommendation from the Public Works Director regarding which section of Holland Lane to make a public road. The section of Holland Lane will be included with Finney Crossing infrastructure being considered for the Town to accept as public in 2021.

8. Winter Operations During COVID

Public Works Director, Bruce Hoar, reported staff will continue to do their job to the best of their ability, but any staff quarantines due to COVID could impact operations which means it will take longer to plow the roads and sidewalks after a snowstorm.

Bruce Hoar also reported:

- Temporary bridge over Muddy Brook will be returned to metal decking and warning signs posted that the bridge is slippery when wet.
- The town received a \$5,000 grant for replacement trees to be planted for those removed due to the emerald ash borer.

9. Comprehensive Plan Progress Report

Planning Director, Matt Boulanger, reported the town plan must be updated every eight years. The next update for the Williston town plan is 2025, but staff and the Planning Commission have begun preliminary stages of the work. There have been two major

amendments to the plan, mainly related to the Energy section. Input in the next six months from the Selectboard on any updates to the plan is requested.

10. Retail Cannabis Zoning Regulations

Matt Boulanger said a town-wide opt-in vote is needed to sell cannabis retail. According to state law, standards contained in local zoning dictate where the product can be sold. Per the existing town zoning sale of cannabis can occur in the Taft Corners Zoning District (Maple Tree Place, Finney Crossing, between Harvest Lane and Williston Road and between Route 2A and Allen Brook), and in the Business Park District for buildings fronting Route 2.

Following discussion, the Selectboard concurred with having the Planning Commission look at the existing bylaws for any necessary amendments and bring the recommendations to the Selectboard.

11. Town Manager's Report

In addition to the written Manager's Report, Erik Wells noted:

- The budget process begins December 1st with the first draft budget. Meetings with department heads will begin December 8th.
- Departments are transitioning back to teleworking per the Governor's recommendation.
- An update on the health order for the Bevins property shows the property is vacated. Next step is to determine compliance on the outside grounds.

12. Other Business

The Selectboard wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

13. Executive Session and/or Adjournment

MOTION by Joy Limoge, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to find that premature general public knowledge of union contract negotiations would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage because the Selectboard risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if contract terms are discussed in public, and to go into Executive Session to discuss the town's forthcoming fire and police union contract negotiations under provisions of state statute 1VSA313(a)(1)(A), and invite the Town Manager and the Finance/HR Director to attend. VOTING by roll call: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

The Selectboard entered Executive Session at 8:47 PM.

There was no action as result of Executive Session and Chairman Macaig adjourned the executive session and meeting at 9:15 PM.