

**TOWN OF WILLISTON
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 12, 2017**

DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Macaig (Chair); Jeff Fehrs, Ten Kenney. (Joy Limoge and Theresa Zittritsch were absent.)

ADMINISTRATION: Rick McGuire, Town Manager; Erik Wells, Assistant to the Town Manager; Jennifer Kennelly, Finance Director; Ken Morton, Fire Chief; Todd Goodwin, Recreation & Parks Director; Ken Belliveau, Planning Director.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy and Bob Schaw, Caroline Ford, Don Thurston, Charlie Magill, Amy Demetrowitz, Ginger Morton, Lisa Steadman, Gabe Cummings, Jason Starr (Williston Observer), Scott Moody (Channel 17).

[Note: Minutes reflect order of published agenda.]

1. Call to Order

Chairman Terry Macaig called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

2. Minutes

None.

3. Public Comment – General Issues

None.

4. Budget Review FY2019 – General Fund

Cemetery

Don Thurston reviewed work done in the town cemeteries in 2016 and future projects. The budget request for FY2019 is \$32,425, mostly to cover personnel costs (four staff persons working from April to October).

Recreation & Parks

Recreation Director, Todd Goodwin, reported on projected revenues and expenditures for the FY2019 budget which overall shows an increase of \$23,000. The town band requests are supported. Mr. Goodwin reviewed current and future capital items including doing a recreation needs assessment for the town, extending the rec path in Williston Community Park to parallel the parking lot by the school, adding LED lights and timers at the rink/warming hut, adding a picnic shelter, and replacing the skate park elements at Williston Community Park. Allotments for vehicle and equipment replacements are also in the capital budget.

Planning & Zoning

Ken Belliveau reported the operating budget is largely flat. Revenues have increased due to an increase in fees received for developments. Also, the fee amounts were increased.

Expenses include equipment replacement (computer), GIS shared license, and conservation budget for trail maintenance. Capital items include the Allen Brook nature trail connection to Chatham Woods and boardwalk maintenance, Mud Pond Country Park parking, and a trailhead at Brownell Mountain.

Fire

Fire Chief Morton explained the personnel needs in the department because there is no longer adequate call staff which puts excessive burden on the full time staff and requires calling other ambulance services to handle calls. The number of calls continues to increase as the town population grows. The budget request is for three additional personnel which will allow a paramedic on all three shifts. Chief Morton reviewed the summary of savings anticipated with the hire (less training cost, more ambulance revenue). Revenues for ambulance service are expected to exceed projections this year. Capital items include the treatment of the floor in the firehouse to prevent slips and falls. Chief Morton will provide additional information on the number of intercepts, increase in call volume, and calls not turned over.

There was discussion of the strategic plan and the recommendation to hire a Fire Marshall once the state unfreezes the MOU with communities to take over the service. The position would be self-funding and oversee building plan reviews, do building inspections and code enforcement.

5. Vermont Community Development Program Application

Amy Demetrowitz with Champlain Housing Trust explained the grant application for the \$7.8 million project to purchase and renovate St. Joseph's School in Burlington into the Old North End Community Center. Williston is asked to be a sponsor for the grant application.

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to schedule a public hearing to receive comment on a proposal by Champlain Housing Trust to apply for funding through the Vermont Community Development Program to support renovation of St. Joseph's School in Burlington to serve as the Old North End Community Center. VOTING: unanimous (3-0); motion carried.

6. Town Manager's Report

Rick McGuire reported:

- Next Selectboard meeting is December 19, 2017 at Town Hall.
- The Community Justice Program in Williston continues to serve the community and surrounding towns well. The state may be revising funding for the program so other sources of revenue are being explored.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Adjournment

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.

RScty: M.E.Riordan