

**TOWN OF WILLISTON
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 16, 2018**

APPROVED February 6, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Macaig (Chair); Jeff Fehrs, Joy Limoge, Ted Kenney. (Theresa Zittritsch was absent.)

ADMINISTRATION: Rick McGuire, Town Manager; Erik Wells, Assistant to the Town Manager; Jennifer Kennelly, Finance Director; Bruce Hoar, Public Works Director; Melinda Scott, Conservation Planner.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Sousa, Chapin Kaynor, Cindy Thurston, Ben Norris, Alice Fothergill, Natalie Kwit, Kayla Donoghue, Sasha Mamava, Jason Starr (Williston Observer), Scott Moody (Channel 17).

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

December 12, 2017 & January 2, 2018

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Joy Limoge, to approve the minutes of December 12, 2017 with correction to the spelling of ‘Ted’ and January 2, 2018 with the addition of the words “to make” prior to “no change to the ordinance” in the first sentence in Item 4 (Sewer Allocation Ordinance Amendment). VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

3. Public Comment – General Issues

None.

4. Interviews/Appointments

Energy Coordinator

There was discussion of potential tasks and responsibilities of the Energy Coordinator position which is advisory.

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Joy Limoge, to appoint Brian Forrest as Energy Coordinator for a one-year term ending June 30, 2019. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

5. Green Mountain Transit (GMT) Update

Mark Sousa, GMT General Manager, and Chapin Kaynor, Williston representative and Chair of the GMT Board of Directors, gave a presentation on the current organization of the transit company and the services provided in five counties in the state. The annual report was also presented. It was noted the Next Gen Study that looked at route efficiencies shows the afternoon service from Williston village may not be sustainable due to low ridership. There has been discussion of locating a transit center/transfer

station in the Taft Corners area. GMT currently has four electric buses in the fleet and is seeking to increase that number.

6. Catamount Community Forest Study Committee

Melinda Scott, Conservation Planner, and Ken Norris, Chair of the Catamount Community Forest Study Committee, reported on progress to date following numerous meetings with experts in the fields of forestry, wildlife management, habitat biology, Audubon, public land trusts, and operators of the Catamount Outdoor Family Center. The meetings are well attended. Good progress is being made.

There was discussion of free public access and activities versus for-fee activities on the land.

7. Keeping of Chickens Regulation

Representatives from the Department of Health (Natalie Kwit and Kayla Donoghue) reviewed four diseases from chickens that can infect humans. Salmonella is the most risk. Good hand hygiene after being around the birds is an effective protective measure.

There was public comment and discussion of the optimum number of birds for a backyard flock to avoid overcrowding and stressing the birds which can lead to more disease.

8. Sidewalk Winter Maintenance Requests

Bruce Hoar, Public Works Director, recommended the request by Chris Snyder to plow the sidewalks in Finney Crossing be postponed until the town owns Zephyr Road and that the town only plow the path along Zephyr Road, not all the sidewalk in the development.

MOTION by Joy Limoge, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to table the sidewalk maintenance request for FY2019. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

9. Motor Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance Amendment – Old Stage Road North

Bruce Hoar reported the CCRPC study supports lowering the speed limit on the upper portion of Old Stage Road to 25 mph. Staff concurs with the recommendation.

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Joy Limoge, to schedule a public hearing to receive comment on a proposed amendment to the town's traffic ordinance that would lower the speed limit on the northern section of Old Stage Road to 25 mph. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

10. FY2019 Budget Review

There was discussion of having no more than a 2% increase in the tax rate and what adjustments could be made to achieve that goal. Support was expressed for the additional firefighter/EMT positions, contribution to the steeple repair for the town clock, and use of the Environmental Reserve Fund. Staff will prepare a revised list of possible budget adjustments consistent with the goal of reducing the tax rate increase.

11. Town Manager's Report

Rick McGuire reported:

- There were bridge closures during the recent ice jams and flooding.
- The library will reopen on January 17, 2018 thanks to all the hard work by Marti Fiske and her staff.
- The school has agreed to maintain its storm water system.
- Staff recommends waiting for the North Williston Road study to be complete before taking action the original scoping study.

Jennifer Kennelly, Finance Director, reported:

- Expenditures are trending as anticipated.
- The contractor's insurance did not cover the Route 2A water line break.
- The town received two storm water grants from the state for the Southridge and Brennan Woods neighborhood projects.
- Insurance will cover damage caused by the water line break at the library for the most part.

12. Other Business

Terry Macaig asked the Selectboard to email their choice for the annual report dedication.

13. Adjournment

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 PM.

RScty: M.E.Riordan