

**TOWN OF WILLISTON
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 28, 2020**

APPROVED August 18, 2020

***Meeting held by teleconference.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Macaig (Chair); Ted Kenney, Gordon St. Hilaire, Jeff Fehrs. (Joy Limoge was absent.)

ADMINISTRATION: Rick McGuire, Town Manager; Erik Wells, Assistant Town Manager; Shirley Goodell-Lackey, Finance Director; Bruce Hoar, Public Works Director; Matt Boulanger, Planning Director; Emily Heymann, DRB Planner; Melinda Scott, Conservation Planner.

OTHERS PRESENT: Participants in the meeting included Ethan Tapper, Kimberly Hornung-Marcy, Lynn Blevins, Marcy Kass, Reed Parker, Elizabeth Ezerman, Brian Forrest, Laura Meyer, Evan Morrison, Leslie Allen, Caylin McCamp, Danielle Doucette, Chapin Kaynor, Hans Buehler, Tom Bigelow, Mike LaCroix, Megan Cope, Kevin Thorley, Jason Starr (Williston Observer), Scott Moody (Channel 17).

[Note: Minutes reflect order of published agenda.]

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

July 14, 2020

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Gordon St. Hilaire, to approve the minutes of July 14, 2020 with the global correction of the spelling of Brigadier General Hank Carter and the addition of the adjournment of Executive Session at 9:12 PM.

VOTING: 3 ayes, one abstention (Jeff Fehrs); motion carried.

3. Public Comment – General Issues

None.

4. Rte. 2/Industrial Ave. Intersection Improvements

Director of Public Works, Bruce Hoar, Mike LaCroix, VTrans, and Tom Bigelow with Green International Affiliates gave an update on the progress to date on the Route 2A/Industrial Ave./Mountainview Road intersection improvement project. Work on permitting and acquisition of right-of-way is underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023. Two options for maintaining traffic flow during work in the right-of-way were presented. Bruce Hoar recommended the town select the option of one-way traffic

on Mountain View Road westbound and having a road detour for east bound traffic from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. The town will be reimbursed for any road damage on the detour roads.

The Selectboard will choose an option at the August 18, 2020 meeting.

5. Catamount Community Forest Management Plan Addendum

Conservation Planner, Melinda Scott, Chair of the Catamount Community Forest Management Committee, Laura Meyer, and Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forrester from the State Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation explained the addendum to the Catamount Community Forest Management Plan which addresses wildlife habitat management and forest management in light of climate change. The public will be engaged in projects such as logging, integrated pest management of invasive plants, and deer management. Timber revenue will be used to help cover expenses associated with the management plan. The addendum is called the Forest Management Plan.

There was public comment in support of the plan and prioritizing removal of invasives.

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to adopt the proposed addendum to the Catamount Community Forest Management Plan as recommended by the Conservation Commission and the Catamount Community Forest Management Committee. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

6. Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Agreement

Melinda Scott explained special conditions with the grant relative to level of review for archeological resources and historic preservation associated with the Catamount Community Forest land. Most of the items in the grant are part of Act 250 review as well.

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Gordon St. Hilaire, to authorize the Town Manager to sign the grant agreement with Vermont Department of Forest and Recreation for a grant amounting to \$280,000 for the Catamount Community Forest. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

7. VAST Agreement: Use of Public Lands

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to approve the use of public lands by the Williston Hillhawks and Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), and to authorize the Town Manager to sign the agreement for the 2020-2021 season. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

8. Public Hearing: Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The public hearing on the proposed 2016-2024 Comprehensive Plan amendments was opened at 8 PM. Planning Director, Matt Boulanger, and DRB Planner, Emily Heymann, reviewed the amendments to include an energy plan and modifications relative to public health items.

There was public comment and a statement with 93 signatures in support of the energy plan and health amendments, and comment against the energy plan and issue of global warming.

Chapin Kaynor, Planning Commission Chair, said the Planning Commission supports hiring an Energy Coordinator, but feels the town can move forward with the plan without a coordinator in place at this time.

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to close the public hearing. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

The public hearing was closed at 8:42 PM. A second public hearing on the matter will be held in August or September.

9. Appoint Collector of Delinquent Taxes

MOTION by Jeff Fehrs, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to appoint Erik Wells as the Collector of Delinquent Taxes effective August 3, 2020. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

10. Town Manager's Report

In addition to the written Manager's Report, Rick McGuire and/or Erik Wells noted:

- Final interviews of the two finalists for the Fire Chief position are scheduled.

Rick McGuire Final Meeting as Town Manager

Rick McGuire thanked the Selectboard, town staff, and the townspeople for the opportunity to serve the community for the past 22 ½ years, adding the town is in good hands with the current Selectboard, the town staff, and the new Town Manager, Erik Wells.

11. Other Business

Discussion of Facemask Requirement

The Governor has mandated wearing masks in public places. Due to the Governor's mandate it makes local regulation unnecessary.

Thanks and Appreciation to Rick McGuire

The Selectboard expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of the townspeople and town staff to Rick McGuire, recognizing his professionalism, character, innovation, integrity, and leadership as Town Manager for the past 22 ½ years. The town was very fortunate to have such a capable and respected manager. Rick McGuire was wished the best in retirement and received a standing ovation in his honor.

12. Town Manager Contract (possible Executive Session)

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Gordon St. Hilaire, to approve the contract with Erik Wells for the position of Town Manager and authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the document. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

13. Adjournment

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

RScty by tape: MERiordan