

**TOWN OF WILLISTON
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 5, 2015**

DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Macaig (Chairman); Jeff Fehrs, Ted Kenney, Debbie Ingram. (Chris Roy was absent.)
ADMINISTRATION: Rick McGuire, Town Manager; Bruce Hoar, Public Works Director; Marti Fiske, Library Director.
OTHERS PRESENT: Karla Karstens, Cole Bartlett, Bill Bartlett, Michele Boomhower, Ken Robie, Christine Forde, Scott Moody (Channel 17).

[Note: Minutes reflect the order of the published agenda.]

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

September 21, 2015

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to approve the September 21, 2015 minutes with the following correction(s)/clarification(s):

Page 1, Others Present – correct the name of “Mark Maloney”;

Page 1, Item #4, Environmental Reserve Request, second line – change “purchased” to “purchase”;

Page 2, 3rd bullet – change to read: “Williston Essex Network Transportation Study (WENTS)”;

Page 3, Comments, 1st bullet – change “agricultural” to “agriculture”;

Page 4, Item #7, Storm Water Loan Program, 3rd bullet, change “rebuild their storm water systems” to “upgrade their storm water systems”, and in the 3rd paragraph beginning “Rick McGuire....” – change “amount to be loan” to “amount to be loaded”;

Page 7, Town Manager’s Report, 1st bullet – change “provide” to “provided”.

VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

3. Public Comment – General Issues

None.

4. Disc Golf Course Recognition

Cole and Bill Bartlett discussed Cole Bartlett’s 8th Grade Challenge project to establish a disc golf course in town and introduce the sport to the community. After three years of work and fund raising the course is in place and the sport is being taught as a Physical Education class at Williston Central School.

5. Meeting with Library Trustees

Karla Karstens, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, and Marti Fiske, Library Director, highlighted activities at the library over the past year including:

- “Dottie” the new bookmobile and year round bookmobile services to daycare centers, senior centers, and neighborhoods. The vehicle will be painted with scenes of Williston and have a wheelchair lift and book carts on wheels.
- Geek campaign and logo to highlight all the services available at the library in addition to books.
- Summer reading program “Everyone Has a Hero” which resulted in a 30% increase in summer reading.
- Space reconfiguration.
- Library services provided
- Ongoing building maintenance

Ms. Karstens announced the 10 year anniversary of Marti Fiske as the Library Director.

6. Transportation Alternatives Report

Michele Boomhower and Ken Robie with VTrans reported the following:

- There is only one Phase 3 transportation alternative project in line and that is the intersection of Mountainview/Industrial Ave./Route 2A. The remainder of the projects are considered “candidate projects”.
- Presently a mechanism is being developed to bring projects into the program. A transportation prioritization system is being created. Different modes of transportation and economic benefit factors will be recognized.
- The transportation program at present is well over subscribed (\$75 million needed beyond what the state has).
- It is anticipated the Fiscal Year 2018 budget will bring in some projects for initial design work.
- The lack of a transportation bill at the federal level has had an impact because there is no guarantee to the state of funding from one year to the next so projects cannot be put into the queue.
- VTrans staff had to “prune” the list of backlogged projects due to available funding.

Ted Kenney noted of the 10 projects in Williston in Phases 1, 2, and 3, seven are candidate projects. Michele Boomhower explained the candidate projects will come into the program on a competitive basis. There are other projects not even on the ‘candidate project’ list. Legacy projects must come off the queue before new projects can be added. It is anticipated the legacy projects will be cleared in the next few years. Some projects are slated in FY2018 for engineering work. The state is committed to the projects, but there are elements that must be in place, such as the federal transportation bill, so it is known funds are available.

Ken Robie reviewed Phase 1, 2, and 3 projects:

- Phase 1 – Route 2A/James Brown Drive intersection
 - Working through the right-of-way process

- Construction year is slated as 2018
- Phase 1 – Route 2A/Route 15 regional project
 - Analyzing signals and equipment upgrades to make the corridor more efficient
- Phase 2 – Route 2/Trader Lane traffic signal
 - Meetings will be scheduled with Bruce Hoar and Ken Belliveau to discuss the timing of the project and potentially using only state funds. Federal funds would be used just for the signal.
- Phase 3 – Exit 12 stage one improvements
 - Additional turn lane northbound
 - Bike/ped path from the Vermont State Police building to Hurricane Lane
- Phase 3 – Industrial Ave./Mountainview Road/Route 2A intersection
 - Design work and engineering to move toward construction
- Michele Boomhower noted other projects have been done including transit shelters, regional transportation demand activities, and additional transit services.

Status update was given as follows:

- Park-and-Ride is in the final Act 250 process. Potential construction start is 2016. Local approvals are wrapping up. Impact fees have been wrapped up.
- Route 2/Industrial Avenue intersection is a legacy project and will be done. The state is aware the town will be relocating the water line and has committed funds to the project.
- Repaving/reconstruction of Route 2 will be done to the South Burlington town line. Full pavement replacement is slated for 2017.

Jeff Fehrs asked about rebuilding Route 2. Ken Robie said there are no plans for rebuild. Repaving may be a project at some point. Jeff Fehrs stressed the pavement condition on Route 2 is poor.

Ted Kenney commented the situation with VTrans and transportation projects is unacceptable. People in Williston are extremely frustrated and that message needs to be passed on loudly. The country and the state used to build things and should go back to doing just that. Michele Boomhower acknowledged the frustration and assured there is vested interest in delivering the projects. It is a hard legacy and difficult situation for everyone that VTrans has not been able to meet the needs as anticipated.

7. Housing Trust Fund Task Force

Rick McGuire reviewed the draft charge and structure for the housing trust fund task force to investigate the formation of a housing trust fund. Jeff Fehrs suggested a more permanent umbrella type task force that looks at various issues surrounding affordable housing including forming a housing trust fund or the other recommendations from the affordable housing report. Rick McGuire pointed out the town does not have staff to support a permanent committee. Debbie Ingram noted the task force is a good first step. The task force can make recommendations going forward.

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to adopt the charge, dated September 28, 2015, for a Housing Trust Fund Task Force to develop recommendations on the funding and structure of a housing trust fund. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

8. Town Manager's Report

Rick McGuire reported:

- A written report on the ICMA conference is forthcoming.
- Solar panel consultant is doing an RFP for panels on the highway garage. It is hoped the panels will be installed by the middle of the next calendar year.
- Memo was received from South Burlington City Manager regarding regionalization of services and discussion of a council of governments approach.
- CSWD is addressing odor problems with their compost facility.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Storm Water Fees

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Debbie Ingram, to discuss in Executive Session legal strategy and possible civil action by the Town of Williston against the State of Vermont for failure to pay the town storm water fees where premature public knowledge would place the town at a substantial disadvantage, and to invite the Town Manager to attend. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

Executive Session was convened at 8:46 PM and adjourned at 9:15 PM. No action was taken following Executive Session.

11. Adjournment

With no further business before the Selectboard and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

RScty: M.E.Riordan