

TOWN OF RUTLAND
SELECT BOARD

MINUTES: January 26, 2015

Board members present: Steve Hawley, Mary Ashcroft, Don Chioffi, Joe Dicton and John Paul Faignant

The meeting opened at 6:00 P.M at the Rutland Town Elementary School with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Planning Commission Chairman Mr. Andrew McKane reported:

Not present.

Town Representative to the Solid Waste Alliance Communities Mr. William Matteson reported:

Not present.

Town Transportation Council representative Mr. Martin Wasserman reported:

Not present.

Town Clerk & Treasurer Ms. Donna Zeller reported:

1. February 1st is the last day to post the Town warning.
2. Circle articles are due by February 6th.
3. An individual from A.M. Peisch will review Town accounts on February 11th.
4. The Town Office will be closed on February 16th for President's Day.
5. The last day to mail the Town Report is February 21st.
6. The last day to register to vote in March is February 25th.
7. The Polls will be open on March 3rd from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM for voting.
8. Budgets have been delivered to Department heads.
9. She informed the Board that after making changes to various budgets the new proposed budget is up 8.5 % from the previous budget.

Town Road Commissioner Mr. Byron Hathaway reported:

1. We are still in the winter mode.
2. Told the Board he is monitoring problem culverts.
3. Informed the Board that he had met with representatives from West Rutland and the RRPC regarding the SCBC U.S. RT 4 Corridor Study Grant. Mr. Hathaway said parameters were set up. Mr. Hathaway said he would review the draft work plan after it is prepared by Ms. Maryann Goulette. He said once the work plan is

complete a selection committee would be formed to help draft an RFP in order to get a consultant for the project.

4. Clarified the date and time of the first complete streets committee meeting.
5. No word on the status of the Post Road sidewalk grant application.
6. He informed the Board that he has discussed the potential of a highway garage with Select Person Ms. Ashcroft. He said if the item is not put on the ballot he would refrain from purchasing a new truck.

Mr. Fagnant cited the fact that there is approximately **\$100,000.00** in the Mead and McClure wood lot accounts for the purpose of constructing a new highway garage. Board members discussed where the Board would get the additional money to construct a new highway garage.

Ms. Ashcroft cited the fact that the Town has a lot of excess money according to the auditor's report. Ms. Ashcroft said the Board needs to spend the money and that the Board needs to ask the voters how the money should be spent.

Ms. Ashcroft said she thinks the Board should ask the voters to approve **\$850,000.00** for the construction of a new highway garage using the unrestricted money in the Town account. Mr. Chioffi said he can't allocate any funds out of the account until he hears from the Town attorney regarding unrestricted funds.

Ms. Ashcroft said the unrestricted funds do not show up in the General Fund rather they are cited in the Town audit. Mr. Zingale reported to the Board regarding spending excess money from the Fire Station bond after speaking with Mr. Kevin Brown on the phone.

Mr. Zingale said that according to Mr. Brown the Board needs to put some of the unrestricted funds into a reserve and then after voter approval the money could be spent on a non-fire station project.

The Board scheduled a meeting for January 29, 2015 at 6:00 PM to continue discussion with the Town attorney and Town Auditor.

Town Fire Chief Mr. Frank Cioffi reported:

1. He informed the Board that he has spoken to the Town Attorney regarding the Fire Station.
2. In formed the Board that the two new thermal imaging cameras have been ordered.

Mr. Hawley opened the generator maintenance bids. Milton Caterpillar bid **\$1,936.00** for the three generators, one maintenance call per year per generator. Brookfield Services bid **\$2,300.00** for the three generators, one maintenance call per year per generator plus two four hour emergency calls, does not include parts. Board members discussed the bids and took no action. Mr. Fagnant said he does not see a change for an

emergency call in the Milton bid. Mr. Zingale will do some research into the bids and report back to the Board.

Board members considered the Champlain Construction payment request. Mr. Dicton asked if the new generator has been load tested. Mr. Zingale said the new generator has not been load tested. Board members discussed the matter further with Mr. Zingale and took no action.

Town Police Chief Ed Dumas reported:

From 1-9-15 to 1-22-15 the Police Department had 57 calls for service as compared to 57 calls last year at this time and 31 calls total for the year. He said this year we are at 73 calls.

-Types of calls assigned: public speaking, directed patrols, accidents, vagrancy, burglaries, welfare checks, agency assists, child abuse, alarms, property thefts, traffic hazards, motor vehicle complaints, fire complaint, 911 hang ups and solicitations.

Closed Cases: 55

Number of Arrests: 0

What Types of Arrest:

Motor Vehicle Stops: 6

Vermont Civil Violation Complaints 9 tickets issued:

Total Fine Amount: **\$1,145.00**

Total number of Patrol Hours: 115

Total number of Admin hours: 32

Chief Dumas said all officers received 5 hours training except officer Gamble, who received 4 hours training.

Town Recreation Director Mr. Mike Rowe reported:

1. Basketball will finish soon.
2. Baseball registration will begin soon

Mr. Chioffi moved to approve the North Star Fireworks contract in the amount of **\$6,500.00**. Mr. Dicton made a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Town representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission Mr. Sherman Hunter reported:

Not present.

Town Administrator Mr. Joseph Zingale Jr. reported:

1. Presented a speeding complaint letter the Board.

2. Presented a letter from a town resident pertaining to budgetary issues.
3. Informed the Board that the Town of New Haven has endorsed the Board's solar resolution.
4. Informed the Board of a town resident's request to use the Cheney Hill Community Center to hold a public meeting regarding Fire District #10 disbanding. Mr. Hawley said the group can use the Community Center and Board members agreed.
5. Informed the Board that a VTrans official wants to see a plan of the proposed Post Road wet-well plantings prior to granting permission to do landscaping.
6. He informed the Board that the Elnicki's are seeking changes to their Act 250 permit pertaining to their gravel pit in Clarendon.
7. Informed the Board that an official with BJ's has asked VTrans to postpone consideration of the Town's Farrell Road slip lane request until early spring.
8. Mr. Zingale reported that work on the Town Report is progressing.

Board members reviewed packet correspondence.

Mr. Chioffi recommended that the Police budget be the next in line to receive 1% tax funds as opposed to just having the funds spread out. He said that since the Board does the whole general Budget with 1 % tax funds and because there is **\$245,000.00** remaining, the money should go to the Police budget.

Mr. Chioffi told Board members that he and Mr. Dicton have decided the Board should eliminate a contingency in the Police Budget. He said by doing so the Police Budget would be reduce to **\$273,554.00**

Mr. Chioffi said the Chief has made a reasonable defense of a part-time officer at **\$18,792.00**. He said he and Mr. Dicton think the officer would be appropriate but not for this year. Mr. Chioffi said removing the contingency as well as the part-time officer brings the Police Budget down to **\$254,762.00**. He said the number represents a 2% increase to the Police Department budget.

Chief Dumas said if the part-time officer is cut then he would have two part-time officers and Captain Washburn. He said such a move would be the same as last year's budget. Mr. Chioffi agreed. Mr. Dumas said his department is busier and yet the Board does not want to add anything extra. Mr. Dumas said the matter was not discussed with him until the present minute.

Ms. Zeller said the **\$13,000.00** Police Department liability vehicle insurance is covered through VLCT and should not be in the Police Budget. Ms. Zeller is to check to see if she is correct regarding VLCT covering the amount and will report back to the Board.

Mr. Chioffi said if the **\$13,000.00** is covered by VLCT the Committee would recommend putting the officer back in the budget.

Ms. Ashcroft moved to close the meeting. Mr. Chioffi made a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.