



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676
Select Board Minutes
January 20, 2014

Board members present: Gene Armstrong, Ron Lafreniere, Chair, and Rod Wheelock

Board members absent: Josh Arneson, Dan Champney

Also present: Andrew Pond, David Parot, Sharon Murray

Clerk: Amy Grover

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Appointments:

Andrew Pond met with the board to review the school budget. Andrew noted that:

- The school wanted the Select Board to be apprised of the budget outcome.
- Smilie School reduced their budget, but taking all the complicated formulas and other budgets into consideration reflected an 11.43% increase.
- Holding the budget would equate to a 250K cut; noting that would be a teacher, a principal and much more.
- Large cuts to Smilie's budget could negatively impact the town by Smilie being considered an inferior school affecting real estate sales and families moving to Bolton.
- Meetings are continuing on a merger, and the superintendent is exploring options for going forward without a merger.
- Our representatives do not sit on committees where decisions are made, i.e. Ways and Means.
- As all know, there are no simple solutions.

David Parot met with the board to express his concerns about the ECOS Science to Action Project and noted that:

- The town should not be inviting advocacy groups like VNRC to comment on our Town Plan.
- He would attend the next meeting when there was a full board to ask for a motion for the town to withdraw from ECOS.
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Sharon Murray met with the board to give a DRB update. Sharon reviewed:

Bolton Valley Subdivision:

- The history of DRB hearings from 2005 – 2013 with respect to Bolton Valley's subdivision of Lot #5.
- The DRB had tried to provide multiple opportunities for Bolton Valley to provide requested information for reconsideration, and to specifically address the regulations.
- The DRB never received requested information nor specifics.

DRB Staff:

- The DRB is in dire need of staff support.
- Potential to partner with other towns hiring part time staff; Richmond & Underhill.
- Ability for the position to be contractual.
- She is running for a seat on the Select Board, and if elected will need to resign from the DRB.

Business and Action Items:

FEMA: \$25,702 had been received for the 2013 June and July road washouts.

Server Computer: Continuing to crash, and no security updates available after 4/8/2014. Gene motioned "to purchase a new server computer for not more than \$900." Rod seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (3-0).

Lawsuit: The ex-employee had been dismissed from the suit, the case against the town continued.

Vault: The keypad repairs cost \$375.

Dog License Fees: The state increased their fee from \$3 to \$4. Rod motioned “to increase the town’s dog license fees from \$10 to \$11 to reflect the state increase.” Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (3-0).

PVR License: Gene motioned “to approve the license for the town to use the Marshall & Swift Cost Tables associated with NEMRC for \$238.81 as negotiated by the State of Vermont.” Rod seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (3-0).

Certificate of Highway Mileage: The board signed the State of VT Certificate of Highway Mileage necessary to determine the town’s share of state aid for town highways for FY ’15.

PSB – GMCE: The board reviewed information regarding Green Mountain Clean Energy’s request to continue collecting meteorological data on Ricker Mountain.

Town Meeting: The board reviewed:

- The town meeting warning, and the mailing of Town Reports to registered voters only.
- Information from Steve McLeod and Frank Stanley regarding the “PEACH Power” petition.
- That the constable position would be a write in.

Budget Review: The board reviewed the final budget draft and made no changes, the town budget stands at \$849,900. Noted that amendments could come from the floor at town meeting.

Dry Hydrant Program: The board reviewed a request from the VT Dry Hydrant Program for funding, and felt that the town was not able to support additional funding requests at this time.

Warrants: Warrants were signed.

Other Business:

- Amy will contact the state to suggest two Wednesday dates in February for a joint meeting on the FHR.

Minutes January 6, 2014

Tabled until full board/next meeting.

Closing:

The Select Board will meet the February 3rd and 17th, and March 10th and 17th. No other business was brought before this Board at this time. Gene motioned to close the meeting. Rod seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (3-0).

The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on: February 3, 2014, Ron Lafreniere, Chair, For the Board