



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676
Select Board Minutes
March 10, 2014

Board members present: Josh Arneson, Gene Armstrong, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Ron Lafreniere, Chair, and Sharon Murray

Board members absent: None

Also present: Eric Andrews

Clerk: Amy Grover

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

There were no changes to the agenda.

Gene Armstrong, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, and Sharon Murray took the oath of allegiance and the oath of office as newly elected Select Board members.

Appointments:

Eric Andrews gave a town highway update:

- \$30 left in the salt line item with a tandem load of salt remaining.
- Town had attempted to help open up the gravel pit.
- '08 International is back from Clark's – leaking antifreeze tank. Road crew unsure if that was the issue.
- A culvert issue at the end of Notch Road, Stage Road end; guardrail pushed in and frozen and culvert frozen. Unable to thaw, may need to work with BVFD to thaw when temperatures rise.
- There are no other culvert issues at this time, but that will change when temperatures rise.
- Roads will be posted in the next week or so – trying to synch timing of posting with Richmond.
- The sander on the old truck is ready to go as needed.
- There was a request for an access site visit for property on the BV Road. Sharon will touch base with Miron; access is complicated.

Business and Action Items:

Notifications reviewed:

- VNA – 2013 annual report.
- District #4 Environmental Commission – approval of the 4 x 4 Center's master plan application.
- Conservation Commission VT Trails Grant – CC is applying for \$1k from the VT Trails Grant Program for fall 2014 trail maintenance projects at Preston Pond. Noted: the grantee will have to submit expenses for grant reimbursement and will provide 20% of the match through volunteer hours.
- FEMA funding – receipt of the \$5,140 from the state for the summer 2013 road washouts. Total FEMA funds received total \$30,843 (the town incurred \$34,770 in expenses). Sharon asked about additional funding to cover the town's share of expenses for the Fisher buyout (approximately 6K). Uncertain if funding available, project has been completely closed out.

Town Constable: Gene Armstrong received the sufficient number of write in votes (9) to be elected. Gene refused the office. Per the VT Elections Division, the incumbent stays in office. Eric Andrews, incumbent, resigned, creating a vacancy of office. The board reviewed a letter from Christopher LaBerge, volunteering for appointment to the office of Town Constable. Sharon Murray made the motion “to appoint Christopher

LaBerge as Town Constable for a one year term.” Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0). Amy will follow up with Chris.

Humane Society – annual intake contract renewal: Gene made the motion “*to approve the annual intake contract renewal with the Humane Society.*” Sharon seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0). Noted: need to review dog ordinance and consider amending to include payment of vet fees by owner.

Town Service Officer Appointment: Gene made the motion “*to appoint Amy Grover as the Town Service Officer for one year.*” Jen seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).

Reserve Fund 1K: Amy requested that the Select Board approve withdrawing the 1K put into the Reserve Fund for the ECOS project (and which was not used), for deposit back into the general fund. Sharon made the motion “*to withdraw the 1K put into the Reserve Fund for the ECOS Project, which was not used, for deposit back into the general fund.*” Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).

Fireworks Ordinance: Amy noted that the town attorneys had investigated the possibility of enacting a fireworks ordinance for the Select Board in September 2012, and yes, an ordinance could be enacted through following that process. SPF would be happy to help draft language as needed. Going forward: check to see what other towns do, especially with respect to fees, ask for input from BV area residents, consider incorporating fireworks into the special events ordinance.

Mowing Contracts: Cemetery care by previous town employees confirmed. Requests for town mowing bids to be accepted until 4 p.m. Monday, April 7th.

Bids for Services: Discussion regarding bids, collective buying, pre-buying, process.

Liquor and Tobacco Licenses: Gene made the motion “*to approve the liquor and tobacco licenses for the Bolton Store.*” Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).

Warrants: Warrants were signed.

Minutes February 3 & 17, 2014: Josh motioned “*to approve the February 3, 2014 minutes as amended and the February 17, 2014 minutes.*” Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. Sharon recused. All others were in favor and the motion passed (4 -0).

Town Meeting 2014 Minutes: Sharon motioned “*to approve the 2014 Town Meeting minutes.*” Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5 -0).

Other Business:

- Amy noted that approximately 65K was outstanding from the third tax installment, with nearly 20K owed by one owner in foreclosure. Amy will check with the bank on that responsibility of payment. Amy asked if the Select Board wanted to consider a formal “grace period” for late taxes. It was noted that voters approved the dates of payment and the subsequent interest penalty for late payment; no grace period included or approved.

- Sharon noted that she would be trying to step down and away from the DRB. Noted: VT Elections Division and VLCT staff attorney stated that the Select Board and DRB were not incompatible per statute, although there could be areas of concern. Noted by Sharon the critical need for DRB staff support, issues with a backlog of DRB minutes, the Select Board as ex-officio members of the Planning Commission are encouraged to be involved with the Town Plan update.
- Suggestion: to review town website needs and expectations.

Closing:

The Select Board will meet April 7th and 21st. No other business was brought before this Board at this time. Gene motioned to close the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).

Attest: *Amy Grover, Clerk*

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on:
March 17, 2014

Ron Lafreniere, Chair, For the Board