

Called to Order: 7:05pm

Present: Roger Brown, David Sander, Christy Witters, Josh Arneson, Connie Bona, Jessica Draper, Rick Bringham, Mary Houle, Terry Moultroup

Public Comment: None

FY2018 Audit Presentation: Rick Bringham from Sullivan and Powers Co. was present to discuss the final draft of the FY2018 audit. He explained that the first 3 pages described that we achieved an unqualified statement, which is the highest/best of three kinds of statements. Roger Brown stated that he wanted to underscore the work done by staff to ensure that status. Rick explained that pages 4-9 provides a more user-friendly analysis. He also explained that page 12 was the balance sheet for our major governmental funds, and that the “non-major” column was an accumulation of all of our non-major funds i.e. fiduciary funds.

Roger Brown inquired about the issue regarding the classification of unassigned funds from general to mostly restricted for highway. Rick explained that he did not know of the plan to change how that was accounted for until about 3 weeks ago when he called Josh to inform him. Roger asked when the other staff at Sullivan and Powers knew about it, and expressed that this was really poor timing for our budget season. Rick said that he understood the frustration, but had not received legal guidance on how to proceed otherwise. Roger asked why the statute is now being followed this way, but hadn't before. Rick explained that it was a difference in interpretation by different partners. Connie Bona explained that the change to the budget to rectify the situation could happen outside of town meeting, because the selectboard has the authority to make those kinds of changes. Josh Arneson said that he wasn't entirely sure if it was legal to move the budget lines based on a conversation he had with Rick and another auditor. Rick explained that he didn't believe it was illegal but that they aren't in a place to provide legal advice, and the question is better suited for the town attorney. Connie also explained that if we receive legal counsel that instructs us otherwise, we can reclassify the numbers and amend the audit so to speak.

Rick went on to discuss the separate water and wastewater section, and encouraged everyone to remember that some figures include capital assets and debts, not just cash. Connie also inquired about financial reporting to the selectboard and wanted to know what numbers the selectboard wants to see and how frequently. Rick said that he planned to meet with Connie in the near future to discuss a reporting format. David Sander inquired about asset management advice. Rick explained that advice about how assets are used is not something they would do, but they can tell you what to consider. Rick suggested the creation of investment policies. Mary Houle stated that prior finance directors had done this kind of advising and that our bank should be reaching out to us to maintain the relationship and provide advice. Connie explained that they have recently been working with TD Bank on a few account management ideas, and reminded everyone that the town's treasurer has the ultimate say in accounts and management of them. Roger stated that what he wants is a picture of how much money does the town have

and where is it (meaning what fund and restrictions). He also said that quarterly budget status reports would be useful. Connie suggested that for those quarterly reports she be present or include notation explaining budget lines that may look differently to the objective perspective than her own.

Rick finished explaining that there were no material weaknesses and no significant deficiencies found in the audit. He did mention that the letter sent to Josh and Connie had included some suggestions, such as formalizing components of the Personnel Policy and how financial reports are formatted. The selectboard thanked Rick for attending, and thanked Connie for her hard work on our finances.

Road Name:

Roger Brown moved to approve the proposed road name "Bear Creek Road" for the proposed Reap subdivision off of Wortheim Road. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor, so moved.

Buttermilk Letter of Support:

David Sander gave a brief background statement about the Buttermilk LLC development issue regarding residential units. Josh Arneson followed up explaining that timing had affected the process of adopting zoning. Jessica explained that she had drafted the letter before them for approval. Christy Witters stated that she would really like for developers to follow the proper process. David Sander said that their first approval was given during cleanup before building one had come to full fruition. Roger Brown asked about the letter referencing the units. David Sander said that the letter just states that they are supportive of the provisions that were in the now-expired interim zoning. Roger Brown felt that he should recuse himself from a vote to approve the letter due to a close personal friendship with an employee of Buttermilk, LLC. Mary Houle stated that she did not believe that was necessary, because there is no financial interest. Roger said he appreciated that, but still would rather wait for other members of the selectboard to be present.

East Main Stormwater:

Josh Arneson updated the board that staff are pursuing grant-in-aid money as well as ERP funds to help pay for this project. He asked the board to greenlight the project now so that Pete could get started on scheduling and bidding. The members agreed to let the project move forward.

Village Center Designation Resolution:

Roger Brown moved to approve the village center designation resolution. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor, so moved.

DWSRF and CWSRF Authorization:

Christy Witters move to authorize the town manager to be the authority for the drinking water and clean water state revolving fund applications.

Conservation Funds for Rip Rap:

Conservation Commission meeting from previous week was cancelled, Josh said he would be following up for the March meeting.

EVSE Grant Update:

Josh said he had spoken to RCAC about reapplying for the grant and getting on the necessary agendas for approvals.

Town Center Survey/Outreach:

Jessica asked the selectboard for approval to go ahead with the materials and online survey created for outreach regarding the town center building renovations and uses. Roger asked if multiple choice questions could be added in style of ranking. Jessica said she would add those. The selectboard approved publishing the survey and the materials for town meeting day.

Police Report:

Christy pointed out the call from Casella workers about concern for a member of the community that was not present when they were doing their pick-ups and said she appreciated the concern for one another. Mary Houle said she would be sending a thank you in regards to that call as well.

Police Chief Hiring:

Josh announced that they were moving forward with the hiring process for one of the finalists for police chief and hoped to have a formal announcement in the coming weeks.

Mail/Correspondence:

Josh gave the selectboard a report from VLCT and a postcard invitation to the selectboard training on 3/30.

Warrants and Purchase Orders:

Roger Brown had reviewed the warrants prior to the meeting. Christy Witters moved to approve Purchase Order 3701. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor, so moved. Christy Witters moved to approve the amendment to Purchase Order 3611 for salt. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor, so moved. Christy Witters moved to approve Purchase Order 3700 for an elevation project. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor, so moved.

Mary Houle wanted to confirm that the next meeting of the selectboard would be March 4th at 7:00pm at Camels Hump Middle School, and that was confirmed by the selectboard.

Executive Session:

Christy Witters moved to find that premature public knowledge about the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor. So moved.

Christy Witters moved that they enter into executive session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(3) of the Vermont State Statutes and to invite the town manager Josh Arneson into the executive session. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor. So moved.

The selectboard entered executive session at 8:23pm. Roger Brown moved to exit executive session at 8:36pm. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor, so moved.

Roger Brown moved to adjourn. Seconded by David Sander. All were in favor. Adjourned 8:37pm.