

Selectboard Minutes 12/16/2019

Members Present: Bard Hill, Christy Witters, Roger Brown, David Sander, Katie Mather

Others Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Larry Muldoon, Police Chief; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15, also attending Mary Houle; Wright Preston; Christalee McSweeney, Coordinator for the Williston Community Justice Center; Linda Donovan; Lars Whitman; Gabe Firman; and others not signed in.

Called to Order: 7:10 PM

David welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comment:

Mary Houle brought up that the Town has lost 2 outstanding employees and she is sorry to see them move on. Mary would also like an update on the dead poultry, Larry responded that the waste will be dealt with appropriately through the EPA. The banners & lighted signs at Cumberland Farms vs TD Bank and the ski shop were her next concern stating that all should be treated equally and are not. Josh said he would look into it and have more information for the next meeting.

Linda Donovan from the Lucky Spot has concerns regarding turnover at the police department and the impact on the community. She has been in discussion with Chief Muldoon and wanted to make her concerns known to the Board.

I. Additions or Deletions to Agenda -none

II. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a. Presentation by Williston Community Justice Center

Christalee from the WCJC center based out of Williston that serves direct referrals from Tamarac, States Attorney's offices, police departments, schools and the Department of Children and Families gave a presentation on the work being done by the WCJC. The Center works with affected persons (victims) and the responsible parties (offenders) by bringing affected person and responsible persons together to ensure an understanding of the impact the behavior has had on the community, family members, and victim. Christalee reported that the number of cases are increasing and with the new juvenile laws there will be more cases. Linda Donovan said she has had first hand experience, it worked well with the minor learning an important life's lessons that may not have been taught at home. It took time but it was worth it. Christalee stated the WCJC is funded primarily by Williston with Richmond contributing nothing. The Board agreed that contributing is something we should do and the WCJC will be added to the list for next year. Christalee was thanked for coming and providing a very necessary service.

b. Gabe Firman to discuss the parking requirements and density calculations contained in the Village Downtown District Zoning

Parking requirements and density calculations were discussed. Josh gave an overview of how we got where we are stating that it will be March before a change in zoning can be adopted to address the

density rounding issue. Gabe & Lars are concerned that the process doesn't get kicked down the road any further. The discussion moved on to parking. Without an ordinance change that incorporates a parking permit plan the option available for providing a parking plan for the development of new apartments in certain properties in the Village Downtown District is to obtain a private parking agreement. A private plan could be done more quickly than changing the ordinance and creating a parking permit plan. The Board agreed it's something that needs to be addressed in the long term.

David thanked them for their patience in working through the process.

III. Other Business

a. Review of FY21 Budget

Josh reported a 2.45% tax increase overall for running the Town. Discussion surrounding appropriations included whether residents knew the Town contributes to charities, whether the Board was abdicating their responsibility by not including appropriations in the budget, and having organizations come to Town Meeting to do a 5 minute presentation prior to voting.

b. Town Meeting Items

1. A discussion regarding Town Meeting date, time, and the distribution of Town Reports started with Linda providing information on previous attempts to change the date and time that failed. She also checked with other town's that have tried moving Town Meeting day and their attempts also failed. She also reported that there would need to be a vote to change the day. Roger would like to have a vote done to have the day moved.

Roger moved to have the residents vote by Australian Ballot to move Town Meeting day to Monday night, Christy seconded. Vote 3-2 in favor. The motion carried.

The distribution of Town Reports discussion included information on past distributions and what is currently done. Without increasing the number of reports printed distribution will expand with a smaller number of reports being left at various locations. The printing needs to go out to bid according to the Town's Municipal Purchasing Policy. Linda will contact printers for quotes.

2. A follow up on the request from Conservation Commission to place the Conservation Reserve Fund on the Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day was initiated by Josh who reported that the vote has to be by Australian Ballot, and has to be done each year explaining that voters cannot bind future voters. This was questioned by a resident who felt that being able to plan ahead and make use of grant money required a 5 year commitment from the Town. Given the information provided by VLCT Josh will get input from the Town's attorney and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

A resident would like to change the Conservation Fund article to indicate it's a renewal, not a new tax. Josh will follow up noting that Linda needs the wording by Jan. 15th.

3. The Board unanimously agreed to approve the Annual Report's dedication.

4. Follow up on voting on appropriations from the floor at Town Meeting -After discussion that included whether the Board should include appropriations in the budget, put them on Australian Ballot or vote on them from the floor it was decided appropriations will be voted

from the floor. To be transparent with voters a table showing the appropriation amount and the impact in dollars and percent of tax increase will be provided with organizations being invited to do a 5 minute presentation on their program. The Board believes that informing voters of what is necessary to run the Town and what is extra should be presented, then let the voters decide.

Linda was thanked for being a sounding board for the residents.

5. Discussion of report from the Selectboard for the Town Report
David requested members email him with suggestions.

6. Review of draft Town Meeting Warning

7. Review of financial information to include in the Town Report - The discussion included keeping it the same as last year and highlighting significant ups and downs. Josh will put together some bullet points for the next meeting.

c. Discussion on matching funds for Unified Planning Work Program grant since the Municipal Planning Grant application was denied

Josh reported that the Transportation Committee wants to move ahead in applying for the grant. They will be meeting this Wednesday to discuss their priorities, and will update the Selectboard at the January 6 meeting.

d. Update on search for new Town Health Officer

Josh reported that Eric Adam Wood has expressed interest in the position and that he would serve the Town well.

Bard moved to have Eric Adam Wood appointed as Town Health Officer, Christy seconded. All were in favor.

Josh added that there is another person who would like to be deputy. He will bring the person forward for the next meeting.

e. Discussion on proposed changes to the Motor Vehicle Ordinance in regards to parking during construction and parking permits

Josh explained changes were necessary to the ordinance due to the Bridge Street construction. There will be a need for the Town Manager to have authority to make changes on short notice. The Board agreed to proceed with making changes for approval.

f. Discussion on status of engineering for Dugway Road

No formal declaration has been made by FEMA. The Board agrees to move forward with the engineering but would be uncomfortable moving beyond that without FEMA funding. The discussion included the possibility of this being a topic of discussion at Town Meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Warrants were approved.

- a) Minutes of 12-2-19; Bard moved to have the 12-2-19 minutes approved, Christy seconded. All were in favor.
- b) Minutes of 12-9-19; Roger moved to have the 12-9-19 minutes approved, Christy seconded. All were in favor.

VI. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

These items were listed for the next meeting: update of Deputy Health officer, warrant for Town Meeting, Conservation Commission follow up, parking permits, Dugway Road usage, financial information for Town Report, including chart for appropriations, Transportation Committee update.

Bard moved to adjourn, Christy seconded. All were in favor adjourned at 10:15PM