

# **Town of Fairfield Select Board Minutes**

**July 8, 2013**

In Attendance: Gavin Ryan, Gene Archambault, Norman Menard and Greg Christie

Town Administrator: Amanda Forbes    Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Rodney Judd

1. Norm made a motion to approve the minutes. Greg seconded. Amended to change #9 to read \$200K, rather than \$150K. Approved as amended.
2. Amanda did some research to save money on the effort to find the missing 30 feet at the pond. We haven't gotten a number yet on cost. Amanda to continue to pursue.
3. Neither Sheldon, nor Georgia assess wind or solar as developed land. The State of Vermont has not made a ruling on what solar or wind do to a property valuation.
4. Rodney has a huge issue with disappearing signage. Budget was \$2.5K and we have spent \$4.1K year to date. Still missing signs on Ryan Road – again! Reviewed some possible ways to control costs.
5. Some issues with problem beavers. Amanda will check with the State Highway Department to see how they control them.
6. Sand bid from Mark Paradee \$5/yd. picked up, \$11/yd. delivered. We need about 4000 yards. Greg made a motion to accept the bid and start hauling with Mark. We will start with 4000 yards. Norm seconded. All in favor.
7. Chipping has been done on Rugg Rd. Still some work to do on St. Pierre Rd.
8. Culvert on North Road where the cows cross is in need of repair. It is in the Town right of way. We would need to install a 60'-24" culvert to fix the problem and this may not work. Reviewed other possibilities.
9. Amanda borrowed \$200K at 1.4% for 4 months.
10. Review of pre-construction notes on the fire station driveway.
11. VT Community Foundation Grant for a Communications Director – request to change this to Events Coordinator. First project would be 250th birthday party. Ok.
12. We are applying for a Bicycle and Sidewalk Grant. It requires a 10% match. Greg made a motion to approve as long as it includes the lowering of Route 36 at the junction of North/South Roads. Norm seconded. All in favor.
13. FEMA is officially closed out. We are still waiting for the last \$31K.
14. Preliminary plan for South Road bridge replacement presented. \$700K.
15. We have a grand list and need to set the tax rate. Grand list in 2012 was \$166,172,155. In 2013 it is \$167,023,108. We need to raise \$985,992 in taxes. Non-resident tax rate is \$1.4151, Homestead rate is \$1.3412. The Town needs .5917 to raise the necessary funds. Gene made a motion to set the Town rate at .60. Norm seconded. All in favor.
16. Letter from the Community Center asking for the playground to be inspected. They would like financial support from the Rec Committee. They would like the slide removed before the end of July and Jig in the Valley. Okay to remove. Find a volunteer to do the work and okay to ask the Rec Committee.

**These minutes exist in draft form until approved by the Select Board.**

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17. There is an issue with a young child on a 4-wheeler on Town roads. When police are called, the kid is gone before they get there. Concern for child's safety. Suggest a call be made to DCF.
18. Year to date budget review.
19. Mowing has been contracted. It's tough to mow because the grass is so wet and soft. Greg made a motion to buy a mower for \$15.9K. No second. Agreement in principal that we should buy our own mower. Concern is that it is cost prohibitive. When you figure mower, tractor, labor and then having one less person working on roads, may cost more than contracting. Advantage is that we could do it more than once, particularly on problem corners.
20. Vermont Land Trust has purchased the development rights from Daniel and Helen Branon to 158 Acres of land on West Street for \$235K
21. We are in line to have municipal streetlights replaced.
22. Do you want a fuel bid? Yes, Browns and Blouins. MM to do.
23. Greg made a motion to approve the warrants and adjourn. Norm seconded. All in favor.