

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 6, 2015

Present: Melinda Gervais-Lamoureux, Mike Worth, Jim Cross, Ed Barber from Newport Daily Express, Richard Epstein, Bobby Daniels, Bill Hawkins, Ray Fontaine, Mark Castonguay, Joel Cope, Teresa Potwin and Jeff Noyes.

Chairperson, Melinda Gervais-Lamoureux called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Joel gave the board an update to the agenda, which included the clothing drop, Masonic Lodge, Dollar General sign and VCDP match.

Public comment: Richard Epstein, on behalf of the Masonic Lodge was present to ask if the board would be willing to put the exemption for the Masonic Lodge on the warning for town meeting without the lodge getting a petition. This was on the warning last year, but it is unclear if the exemption that was voted in was just for one year, or if it covered five years as was the original exemption. Joel will look into whether or not this exemption was for one year only, and if so, the board said that they are willing to put it on the warning this year without a petition.

Read and approve minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting. A motion was made by Jim Cross to accept the minutes as printed. Mike Worth seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Cemetery: Joel informed the board that Mr. Gerstel is willing to allow his wife to be moved if the town considers covering the cost of exhumation and re-burial. Mr. Daniels was present to give the board estimates of the cost of moving Mrs. Gerstel. The board will look into these costs and re-visit this issue at another time, once all the estimates are in for the costs.

Buildings and maintenance: The board went over what was left of the VLCT PACIF safety survey. A written hazard communication plan needs to be in effect. Joel showed the board a template of who is responsible for what duties, which may need some modification. The biggest issue is that the board has to make sure that the personnel receive the training that is necessary. The board agreed that they

would make sure that training is done. This item will stay on the agenda as updates are available.

Joel has no updates on the alarm system estimates at this time, so this will stay on the agenda as well.

Roads: Joel informed the board that there is a grant from ECNRCD on storm water drainage, which the town has already been looking into. In talking with Rachel from Aldrich and Elliott, it looks as though if this is done at the same time as the Alder Street project, the cost may be able to be combined. Rachel will look into the fact that if this will cover the cost of designing this project if there will be grant money to implement this design.

Ray informed the board that the snow blower on the tractor was broken, and that whenever the tractor is broken down, that he would be willing to use his personal tractor. The board said that if Ray used his personal tractor for town business that they would be willing to re-imburse him \$35-\$40 an hour for his time and equipment use.

Personnel: The board reviewed the timesheets for the week ending January 2, 2015.

Jeff Noyes was present to update the board on what was going on in town. Jeff also spoke to the board about thinking about purchasing a new cruiser within the next couple of years.

Joel mentioned to the board about keeping in mind that the town needs to hire a new road crew person, as Bucky will be retiring in May.

Recycling center: The board reviewed issues at the recycling center, and will look into these more the closer that it gets to the mandatory recycling law. Joel did inform the board that space is becoming an issue, and that we need to come up with ideas. A big issue is cardboard. Bill Hawkins informed the board that a local business brings their cardboard once a month and it causes issues on space. Joel will check and see if the collector will pick up the cardboard right at the business on the way by. If not the board gave Bill permission to ask the business to come once a week instead of once a month.

Streetlight project: This is pending the 2015 budget report.

Train Hotel update: No updates.

Unlicensed dogs: No new updates.

Loan: The town clerk gave the board loan figures to finalize the expenses for the 2014 budget year. A motion was made by Mike Worth to sign the loan documents for \$175,000 to cover costs to finalize the 2014 year. Jim Cross seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Old Map: Joel asked the board if they would be willing to give one of the restored maps to the historical society to be displayed. The board said that they would be more than willing to do so.

Community Advisory Board: Joel updated the board on meetings that were scheduled.

Tax department report: Joel showed the board reports from the tax department.

Budget: The board reviewed the final numbers of the 2014 budget and scheduled budget meetings for Monday, January 12, 2015 at 4:00 PM and for Wednesday, January 14, 2015 to start working on the 2015 budget.

Other business: Joel informed the board that planet aid is looking to place another box somewhere in town. Brighton School was suggested.

The board has decided to not give the Dollar General a signed Certificate of Occupancy at this time because of the sign. This will be pursued further before the CO is issued.

Joel updated the board that the VCDP match for the planning grant to complete the inside of the building will be \$3,000 to \$4,000. This will be an article on the warning for the 2015 town meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.