

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on February 23, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tyler at 3:00 p.m.

The Assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present on roll call were:

Councilperson Page
Councilperson Paquette
Councilperson Viens
Councilperson Morrison
Supervisor Tyler

Others Present:

George Hainer, Zoning & Codes Officer
Chris Maron, Champlain Area Trails Director
Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Dennie Westover, DPW Superintendent
Keven Severance, Heidi Sweet, Dave Reckahn

RESOLUTION #59 MINUTES FEBRUARY 8, 2016

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2016 Regular Town Board Meeting as received.

CHRIS MARON, CHAMPLAIN AREA TRAILS DIRECTOR– Chris Maron gave a presentation on his recent hiking trip through France and discussed and how he will apply that experience to Champlain Area Trails. CATS' current goal is to set up trails to link local communities. There is little State or Park land available, but it may be possible to use existing roads and get permission from landowners where necessary. Having some trails along roads, where hikers would pass local businesses, could have an economic benefit. Chris compared the CATS map, which is published annually, to the maps available in France. CATS maps don't currently show terrain type or services (dining, lodging, etc.), but such features may be added in the near future. He also mentioned the possibility of families hosting dinner, for which they could charge a fee, for groups who plan their trips in advance.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – No update available.

TOWN HALL PROJECT – We are still waiting on the contract from the state. If passed at tonight’s meeting, resolutions will be made to amend the agreement with VIA and to authorize the supervisor to apply for an additional grant.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #60
WATER/SEWER POLICES AND PROCEDURES

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to adopt the policies entitled “Policies and procedure for billing, collection and reconciliation of water and sewer charges for Westport Sewer District #1 and Water District #1” and “Policies and procedures for billing, collection and reconciliation of water and sewer charges for Wadhams Sewer Districts #2 & #3 and Water District #3.”

RESOLUTION #61
VIA CONTRACT AMENDMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Tyler to sign the Change Order Agreement with Vermont Integrated Architecture.

LETTER FROM NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION – The town received a letter concerning the transportation of crude oil by rail. The NWF is calling for a Federal legislatively imposed ban on the transport of oil along Lake Champlain. This will be tabled for a future meeting where board members will decide if they want to support it.

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RESOLUTION #62
PUBLIC HEARINGS

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to hold a Public Hearing on March 8th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss adding an O&M charge to Westport Sewer accounts, and to hold second Public Hearing, immediately following, to discuss combining Sewer 2 and Sewer 3.

RESOLUTION #63
GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays Paquette

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Tyler to sign the State and Municipal Facilities Program Preliminary Application.

If awarded this grant, the town could receive an additional \$100,000 for the Town Hall Project.

RESOLUTION #64
APPROVAL OF BILLS

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 2B in the amount of \$45,125.92 for Vouchers 2016-110 through 2016-135.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – The excavator is back from the county and the grader will go soon. The brush project on Ledge Hill was finished and Taylor Road will be started next.

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Dennie asked what happened with a past solar project and if it would be possible to put solar panels at the Westport sewer plant. George Hainer said that the project is in limbo; the town's contact person never got back to the town. As for panels at the plant, it would depend on who would own them and how installation costs and payback compare. Dennie would like to purchase a salt and sand spreader for the sidewalks. It would attach to the new sidewalk machine and prices range from \$1,400 – 6,000. Councilperson Viens made a motion to purchase the spreader that Dennie recommended, a TerraKing costing approximately \$3600. There was no second. Supervisor Tyler asked that Dennie research this model to see if a better price is available.

RESOLUTION #65
ROOST SUMMIT

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Tyler to attend the Roost Summit on March 3, 2016 in Lake Placid.

RESOLUTION #66
CUB SCOUT BOTTLE COLLECTION

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to grant permission to Cub Scout Pack 63 to put a can and bottle collection box at the transfer station.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS – Supervisor Tyler brought up a concern he has with employee's insurance costs versus pay rates, specifically with union employees. He stated that salary increases don't reflect insurance increases. The union wants to reopen the contract on a separate issue and Supervisor Tyler will add his concern to the discussion. Keven Severance commented that the pay rate for an MEO should be half way between a laborer and an HEO. The current MEO rate is \$.70/hr below that.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Dave Reckahn is putting together a hops workshop and already has 35 people signed up. He is planning a contractor training class and would open it to

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Planning Board and Town Board members at no charge. Dave also mentioned that he would like to put together a proposal for managing the watershed properties. If the governor's budget passes, they could see a \$60,000-70,000 increase in state funding.

RESOLUTION #67
EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Morrison and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to enter into Executive Session at 4:10 p.m. to discuss pending litigation.

RESOLUTION #68
CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 4:15 p.m.

RESOLUTION #69
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk