

Minutes of the Regular Westport Town Board on June 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Connell at 7:00 p.m.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilperson Page
Councilperson Paquette
Councilperson Viens
Councilperson McCormick
Supervisor Connell

Others present:

Sheila Borden, Town Clerk
Dennis Westover, DPW Superintendent
George Hainer, Zoning & Codes Officer
Elizabeth Lee, Director Youth Commission
Shami McCormick, James Herrmann

RESOLUTION #150 MINUTES JUNE 10, 2014

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2014 Regular Meeting as received.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none at this time

COMMITTEES

DPW/FIRE DISTRICT BUILDING – The total estimated cost by Vermont Integrated Architecture is \$4,459,454. We have to decide now if we want to work with bond counsel for the permissive referendum vote.

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RESOLUTION #151
START DISCUSSION WITH BOND COUNSEL

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Connell to begin discussion with bond counsel on the process for the permissive referendum

TOWN HALL UPDATE – The Committee would like to have a discussion with the Town Board at some point when Alan Hipps is also available.

YOUTH COMMISSION – Director Lee reported that baseball has just ended and read a very complimentary letter from the coach, Ed Mason. She is still working on getting the golf program up and running. There are 15 people signed up for the boat safety course.

There have been some problems with the Counselors that were hired this year but we are working through it and finding better ways to deal with it for next year.

OLD BUSINESS

HAMLET EXPANSION PROJECT – Supervisor Connell contacted Joel Russell about it. George called Brian Grissi about the amendments that he will resurrect and look at.

WESTPORT REVITALIZATION PROJECT – we have not heard anything further.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION – We are pressing forward right now with fundraising ideas.

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT – The Clerk read a letter of interest from Robert McGee seeking appointment to serve on the Planning Board Committee.

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RESOLUTION #152

TABLE APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING BOARD

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to table the appointment and send the letter to the Planning Board for their consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

CAMP DUDLEY REQUEST – They would like to block off the road just south of Frisbie Lane and just north of the Cushman residence from 12:00 p.m. to approximately 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 19 and again for the same times on Saturday, August 16th on parents weekends when there is a considerable amount of traffic. They would have barricades and an individual at both points in case an emergency vehicle had to get through.

RESOLUTION #153

DUDLEY REQUEST TO CLOSE ROAD

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to grant the request of Camp Dudley to temporarily close the Dudley Road on July 19th and August 16th.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – Supervisor Connell is in receipt of the Town Clerk's April report and supporting documents.

EXCELLUS PROPOSED PREMIUM RATE CHANGE – We are in receipt of a notice from our health insurance carrier of a proposed rate change of 15.8% if approved.

EQUALIZATION RATE – We have received notice from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance that we have a tentative equalization rate of 100.00 for Westport.

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STUMPAGE FEE – We have received a check in the amount of \$2,381.73 for stumpage fees from Lyme Timber.

RESOLUTION #154
APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 6B for Vouchers 2014-400 through 2014-434 in the amount of \$39,536.20.

RESOLUTION #155
CONFERENCE APPROVAL –ARSENAULT

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Norma Arsenault to attend training at SUNY Potsdam on July 29-30, spending two nights at a cost of \$83.00 each night.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT AND REQUEST – DENNIS WESTOVER

I have an Agreement to spend Town Highway Funds (CHIPS) that is paving additional roads as follows:

“Front St” and leading to Dead End of Front St., a distance of 950’

“First Lane” and leading to End of First Lane a distance of 310’

“Second Lane” and leading to end of Second Lane a distance of 275’

for a sum of \$15,140.65.

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RESOLUTION #156
SPEND TOWN HIGHWAY FUNDS

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the expenditure of CHIPS funds in the amount of \$15,140.65.

Discussed the thoughts of the NY Rural Water Association on the dirty water situation at some locations in Wadhams.

Extreme concern over the new railroad crossings. Supervisor Connell has tried to make contact with the Railroad Police with no luck.

The blacktopping went well. We are doing some mowing for additional revenue.

RESOLUTION #157
EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the Board to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a union contract at 8:05 p.m.

RESOLUTION #158
CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the Board to Close Executive Session and reopen Regular Session at 8:55 p.m.

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RESOLUTION #159
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette with a unanimous second the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted

Sheila A. Borden
Town Clerk