

Minutes of the Regular Town of Westport Board Meeting on August 26, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Paquette at 7:05 p.m.

The Assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilperson Page
Councilperson Paquette
Councilperson Viens
Councilperson McCormick

Excused: Supervisor Connell

Others present:

Julie Schreiber, Deputy Town Clerk
George Hainer, Zoning & Codes Officer
Dennis Westover, DPW Superintendent
Elizabeth Lee, Youth Commission Director
Sheila Borden, Phil Siarkowski, James Herrmann, Gerald Goulet, Allison Whalen, Nicholas Bailey, David Reckahn

RESOLUTION #191 MINUTES August 12, 2014

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2014 Regular Town Board Meeting as received.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Town Clerk Sheila Borden put in a request to increase the salary of Julie Schreiber, Deputy Town Clerk, from \$8.04 to \$10.00 per hour, the difference to be paid from her salary code. The board was in agreement, however a motion cannot be made until Deputy Supervisor Paquette speaks with Supervisor Connell about any legalities.

GUESTS ALLISON WHALEN AND NICK BAILEY – The after school program at WCS will be cut by the end of September, leaving 30 to 50 students with no where to go as parents are working and all local day cares are full. The program costs \$50,000, \$17,000 coming from parents and the remainder covered by grants. Grants are given

Minutes of the Regular Town of Westport Board Meeting on August 26, 2014
Page 2

based on affected population and it's income. Programs have also been cut at surrounding schools, affecting approximately 150 students. Parents are looking for support in sending letters to local governments concerning the situation.

RESOLUTION #192
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM LETTER

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick
0 Nays

RESOLVED to send a letter to Senator Little to explain the situation and ask for support of the after school program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE – held a meeting the previous night which included a presentation by Vermont Integrated Architecture of proposed Town Hall renovations.

YOUTH COMMISSION – summer program was a success with 63 students in attendance. 53 students are currently involved in the soccer program. They have begun looking at the budget for next year. The lack of an after school program could cause the loss of Vera Martin as director of the summer program. Without it, she may seek other employment and not be available during summers.

OLD BUSINESS

HAMLET EXPANSION PROJECT

WESTPORT REVITALIZATION PROJECT – head of committee, Charles Russell, will be asked to attend a board meeting to provide an update.

TOWN BEAUTIFICATION – haven't held a meeting yet.

PROPERTY TAX FREEZE – no new info.

UNION NEGOTIATIONS – are on hold.

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING BOARD – no recommendations yet, but are meeting August 27th.

Minutes of the Regular Town of Westport Board Meeting on August 26, 2014
Page 3

HERITAGE HOUSE CONTRACT – being looked at by lawyers.

BEACH – closed for season. Everything has been cleaned up and returned to storage.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIT – Town audit will begin within the next five to seven weeks.

RESOLUTION #193
CHAMPLAIN AREA TRAILS

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick
0 Nays

RESOLVED to support the nomination of Champlain Area Trails for the 2015 American Trails National and International Trail Award.

RESOLUTION #194
APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 8B in the amount of \$22,810.22 for Vouchers 2014-521 through 2014-540.

TOWN CLERK REPORT – Deputy Supervisor is in receipt of June and July reports.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – There was a water break the previous Saturday due to a valve with inferior bolts, it's been fixed. Pipes have been replaced at the church. The train crossing at Napper Road is to be fixed on August 27th. They are still looking for a road cover alternative, as wollastonite is no longer available. The Heritage House shed will be repaired soon.

RESOLUTION #195
JACK HAMMER PURCHASE

Minutes of the Regular Town of Westport Board Meeting on August 26, 2014
Page 4

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick
0 Nays

RESOLVED to pay for the purchase of a gas-powered jackhammer for the Water and Sewer department.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS – Supervisor has received a letter for a vacancy on the DPW crew for a Heavy Equipment Operator. Deputy Supervisor Paquette will speak to Supervisor Connell concerning the salary of the position.

COUNCILPERSON COMMENTS – Councilperson McCormick inquired about speed limit changes on the Dudley Road, as traffic has been reported as too fast near the sports fields.

PUBLIC COMMENT

RESOLUTION #196
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Deputy Town Clerk