



2016 TOWN OF FAIRFAX

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY OCTOBER 17, 2016
7:00 PM**

The drafted minutes presented below are unapproved subject to corrections and/or additions at the next Selectboard meeting. Those corrections and/or additions will be written to an amended version of the minutes, which will also be made available to the public.

Selectboard Members Present: Tom Fontaine, Lauri Fisher, Randy DeVine, LeeBeth Ann Lemieux and Duane Leach.

Staff Present: Amber Soter, Zoning Administrator, Amy Sears, Utility Department Manager, David Raymond, Battalion Chief; Deb Woodward, TC & Treasurer and Sheri Rainville, Asst. TC.

Public Present: Mary Beerworth, Barbara Murphy, Carl Jones, Robbie Rodimer, Dr. Von Lepel and Steve and Kathy Renaudette. LCATV videotaped the meeting.

Call to Order: Tom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes:

10.3.16: Randy motioned to accept the minutes as written seconded by Duane. Motion so moved, vote 4-0 (Tom, Randy, LeeBeth and Duane).

Accounts Payable & Receivable Warrants: Randy reviewed the town's PO's and Duane reviewed the Utility Department PO's.

Public Comment: Kathy and Steve Renaudette are here this evening to discuss the charge on their tax bill for trash/recycling. The Renaudette's own two commercial properties in town and contract with a private hauler for their trash and recycling pick-up. They feel that they are being charged twice for the same service. Dr. Audrey Von Lepel is also here this evening with the same concern. She owns the Fairfax Associates in Medicine, located on Main Street, and is in the same circumstance as the Renaudettes. A letter has been received from Sandalwood Development, Inc. d/b/a Steeple Market. The letter states that they feel the town is "double dipping" by passing the residential fee on to Fairfax businesses for trash removal. It was explained by the Board that the fee has always been part of the tax bill. This year it has a separate line item on the tax bill so tax payers know what it costs for this service. Also, this year the town isn't going by the assessed value of a property to determine what the taxpayer's pays but on a per unit basis.

SB Minutes 10.17.16 Cont. Public Forum

Action: Tom will contact Casella to see why the commercial businesses aren't receiving a trash and recycle tote. He will also discuss with Casella if a commercial property contracts with Casella for their trash and recycling service, if the unit fee of \$221 can be deducted from their cost.

Barbara Murphy asked what options the town has in the future for trash pick-up and if joining the NWSW District was an option. She asked about an article to join the solid waste district in March and if it would be a possibility. Barb feels that the voters didn't understand the article they voted on.

Amy Sears, Utility Manager:

Amy attended a workshop for Vermont Water Systems, "Capital Planning and Asset Management", on October 4th. She felt the class was very informational and came back with some good ideas on how to move forward as well as what contacts to have. Asset management will include Randy taking inventory of all equipment and determining the life term of the equipment. Rates were discussed with some towns having an automatic 2% inflation cost, or whatever the federal sets each year.

Amy was asked to check into the extra water bond money that has been accruing over the past sixteen years (approximately \$60,000; please see minutes of 9.19.16). Amy stated that the overage can be used to make improvements to the water system as well as maintenance and repair. Amy will look into the cost of new laser distance meters with remote read.

Amy has received an invoice from the town's legal counsel for a draft litigation report in the amount of \$60.00. Deb wanted SB approval before she paid it. Deb informed the Board that payment of the invoice would come out of the miscellaneous attorney fee line item. The Board approved payment of the invoice.

Amber Soter, Zoning Administrator:

Amber informed the Board about "Drones over Fairfax". The University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Laboratory is working with the Town of Fairfax to do a 3D flyover of the Village as part of a new Route 104 Gateway Enhancement Study funded, in part, by a Municipal Planning Grant from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. BFA students are invited to enter their ideas for a better Fairfax Village.

A letter has been received from the Planning Commission, dated October 11, 2016. The letter was in regards to re-adopting the Town Plan by September 2018. NRPC recommends that the town apply for a Municipal Planning Grant to help alleviate the cost of the project.

*Lauri moved that we authorize Amber and the PC to apply for grants capping out at \$10,000, as outlined in the PC letter, dated 10.11.16. The motion was seconded by Randy - so moved, voted 5-0. The Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant was signed by the Board.

The Planning Commission would like to meet with the SelectBoard to have a discussion in regards to Act 64.

SB Minutes 10.17.16 Cont.

David Raymond, Battalion Chief and Tom Snyder, Chief Fairfax Fire Department:

David is here to finalize changes on the proposed ordinance "Building Inspection, Code Enforcement and Fire Safety." The state agreement is to take on existing residential complaints which would include calls, complaints and etc. The state is awaiting approval of our ordinance. Tom asked where any liability would lie. David stated under the scope of the fire service with sovereign immunity.

The Board was concerned with the amount of time needed to perform the duties as well as the responsibility and liability. David stated that if too much time is spent, the parties may terminate with a written notice to the other party in thirty days. David presented a rental registry form for the Board to review.

Lauri asked the Board to submit changes to her on 10.24.16, and she would condense it to one document.

Other Business:

1. Access Permit Application, submitted for property owner Mark LaBrie, was presented to the Board for final approval. Lauri moved that we approve the permit with a second from Randy. The motion so moved with a vote of 5-0.
2. Error & Omissions Certificate was received from the Listers for property located at FZ0024, with the reason being deletion from the Grand List due to Current Use. The Board by consensus agreed to sign the certificate.
3. Quotes for legal counsel: The Board sent out five RFQ's for service and received two back. The quotes were reviewed by the Board and a decision made to continue with Attorney Monaghan. Lauri will draft a letter to Attorney Monaghan.
4. A contract for Pesticides from the State of Vermont has been received. More information is needed before signing the contract. We will contact Kim Crosby at Casella.
5. A letter has been received from a concerned resident over safety on the sidewalk as the person's son was involved in a bicycle accident with another bicyclist. Tom will look at the area where the incident happened to see if something could be done to improve visibility.
6. A impending position vacancy was discussed and how it was going to be filled. Carl Jones asked if hiring a town administrator would be put to the voters. The Board stated that it would be a ballot item.
7. LeeBeth informed the Board that there would not be a Haunted House this year due to only two people showing up to volunteer. Instead they will hold a Halloween Dance on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 6 pm. to 9 pm.

Adjournment:

9:18 PM: LeeBeth motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM, seconded by Lauri. The motion so moved.

The next scheduled SB meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2016.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Stacy Wells, Adm. Asst. to the SelectBoard.

Tom Fontaine, Chair
Fairfax Selectboard