

## TOWN OF FAIRFAX

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### SELECTBOARD MEETING September 11, 2017 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, Chair; Steven Cormier, Vice-Chair; Randy DeVine, Duane Leach and Stephen Bessette

**Public Present:** Doug Collins, Lucien Hayes, Al Daniels, Barbara Duval (Cemetery Commissioners), Robby Rodimer, Brandon White, Caitlin White, Jeff Nick, Paul Lavallee, Amber Soter, D. Jay Leach and Deb Woodward.

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

**Minutes:**

8-21-17 - S. Bessette asked for two spelling corrections. S. Cormier moved to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Randy. All in favor.

**Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants:** The town warrants were reviewed by Randy, all approved by board. Utility warrants were reviewed by S. Bessette. All approved by board

**Public Comment:**

Alter from Agenda:

**Kezer Cemetery:**

Randy DeVine, Doug Collins and Lucien Hayes walked partial coordinates at 545 Spooner Road to locate boundaries for Kezer Cemetery. It was determined that the cemetery is located on the parcel of land owned by Brandon & Caitlin White.

The cemetery was estimated to be 180 feet along the stone wall from the front pin on Spooner road. Lot size of East/West 50 ft. by North/South 40 ft. L. Hayes estimates 15 headstones/gravesites. Gravesites were found by using a probe.

The cemetery borders Gilles Rainville property and he allows access to the cemetery so it does not disturb the Whites or cross their property.

According to Doug, this is a public cemetery and that does not require prior approval to access. A private cemetery requires approval. The cemetery would have been deeded down to the Whites. Without the deed it is a public cemetery. Brandon White does not agree with Doug.

Al Daniels stated when the Fairfax Cemetery Commissioners were formed, NWRPC developed a town wide map to record public cemeteries and Kezer is listed on the map.

The cemetery commissioners will continue to maintain Kezer Cemetery.

The bee hives are still in dispute whether they are allowed in the cemetery. Once the map from NWRPC is obtained, Tom will consult the town attorney to proceed.

#### **Correspondence:**

- A letter from Fairfax Success By Six, was received. They are requesting to be included as a Social Service award in 2018 in the Town budget. Amy Sears will reach out to Success By Six and inform them they must submit a letter prior to budgeting with a dollar amount they seek.
- The sewer allocation for MA1140-Barn, will become School Street address was approved.
- The Temporary Access Permit for School Street was approved. A non-interest bearing account will be opened by the Utility Dept.
- Boring application at 191 Goose Pond Road was reviewed. Our road foreman D. Jay Leach says the wires should go overhead.

#### **Jeff Nick from JL Davis Reality:**

Currently the property at 293 Fletcher Road is owned by People's United Bank. Jeff was in tonight with permission from People's United Bank. Jeff presented an informational packet to the board on the property. The property has a well that could be potentially beneficial to the Utility Dept. State approval would be required. Information with the State is being followed up with. The selling price of the well, the cost associated with additional water line, waste lines, electronics and engineering will all have to be determining factor if this is feasible for the Utility Dept.

This property has 15 acres and borders the town garage. If a small subdivision could be made possible, the town may possibly be interested in obtaining a lot (Approximately 2 acres). Tom asked Jeff to come back to the Selectboard will a selling price for the lot.

#### **D. Jay Leach- Highway Dept. Foreman:**

- The Western Star truck has come in.
- The road crew has been drawing sand.
- The grader is on the road since they have had moisture enough.
- Working on culverts

- Road crew has been mowing brush at intersections and roads where it is narrow.

**Amber Soter, Zoning Administrator:**

A gentleman in Georgia wants to sub-divide his Georgia property and obtain access from Spooner Road for his driveway. The Fairfax DRB has no jurisdiction on property in Georgia. Spooner Road is a class 4 private road that the town does not maintain. Tom will seek advice from VLCT and follow up with Amber.

DRB: Reappointments,

S. Cormier made a motion to reappoint Nick Hibbard to the DRB that new term expires 2020. Seconded by S. Bessette, all in favor

S. Cormier made a motion to reappoint Claude Rainville to the DRB that new term expires 2020. Seconded by Duane, all in favor

Planning Commission reappointment,

S. Cormier made a motion to reappoint Martha Varney to the PC that new term expires 2021. Seconded by Duane, all in favor

**Other Business:**

- Dog licenses, Bill Stygles has been doing a great job getting the numbers down. The board would like Bill to keep working on them.
- Highway Dept. Overtime; A sheet was handed out with the each employee regular pay hours and overtime pay hours. Tom brought up the orders from Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>; there was an individual who had 2 vacation days and 4 overtime hours in the same week. The unwritten policy for highway hours from years ago must be changed. The highway crew must work 40 hours per week before they receive overtime. S. Cormier asked if anyone was going to recuse themselves before the discussion went any further. Duane recused himself from the vote and discussion. Randy was asked if he would recuse himself and he replied no, he would be involved in the discussion and the vote. The Selectboard used 10 days = 50 hours to come up with a raise to compensate for the overtime. No employee names were used. To compensate for \$1377.00 per year a raise of .66 cents was given. To compensate for \$1711.00 a raise of .83 cents was given. To compensate for \$1473.00 a raise of .72 cents was given. S. Bessette, "I make the motion tonight that we adopt for the highway dept. the same policy the rest of the town operates on, and to abolish the handshake policy that was talked about 40 years ago. With adopted amounts that we figured out during this meeting for their standard base pay. Beginning the next pay period, Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017". Seconded by S. Cormier, vote all in favor. A policy letter was signed by the board.

**Misc.**

The speed monitoring sign was available to the town at no charge. For 3 days the sign was placed by the fire station and 3 days by 1241 Main St. Each night the sign was brought in. As soon as data is available S. Bessette will forward to the board.

Tom will set up the meeting for the crosswalk next week with the State.

The Emergency Communications and Dispatch Service Contract was signed with the City of Saint Albans for a one year period from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$39,507.00. This contract may be renewed annually.

**Adjournment:**

At 8:55, S. Cormier made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Randy, all in favor.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Amy Sears, Adm. Asst. to the Selectboard.

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Tom Fontaine, Chair  
Fairfax Selectboard