



Town of Fairfax
Select Board Meeting
March 2, 2020 – 7:00pm

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: Steve Cormier; Chair, Randy DeVine; Vice-Chair, Stephen Bessette, Duane Leach, Sheri Rainville

Public Present: Robby Rodimer & Carl Jones

Employees Present: Brad Docheff (Town Manager), Debbie Woodward

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

Announcements/Additions & Deletions:

Minutes:

2-17-2020 S. Bessette made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Duane, all in favor.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants:

2-24-2020 The Town and Utility warrants were reviewed by Sheri.

2-26-2020 Randy authorized a special request warrant for the Town.

3-2-2020 The Town warrants were reviewed by Randy; the Utility warrants were reviewed by Sheri.

Public Forum:

Correspondence:

- Liquor License Renewal for Steeple Market, S. Bessette made the motion to accept the renewal, seconded by Sheri, all in favor.
- 1st and 3rd Class Liquor License for Grace Acres LLC, DBA The Inn at Grace Farm, S. Bessette made the motion to accept the application, seconded by Sheri, all in favor.

Utility Dept:

- Four proposal were received for the Water/ Wastewater Extension project. Engineers were graded on Proposal Suitability, Organizational Experience, Value & Cost & Technical Expertise and Experience on Similar Projects. Brad, Randy and Amy met to discuss the 4 proposals.

Each firm was very well qualified. After reviewing, it was recommended to the Board to accept Aldrich and Elliot based on scoring.

S. Bessette made the motion to accept the recommendation and approve Aldrich and Elliot, seconded by Duane, 4 in favor, Randy abstained.

- Water and Sewer Commissioners; Power and Authority & Penalties.
The Utility Dept. is very pleased that 99.9 % of the new meters have been installed. There are a handful of property owners however, who have not followed up from phone messages left, letters mailed, or post cards left at their property. Our goal is to install meters not issue violations. As the ordinances state, the Superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the Town of Fairfax, bearing proper credentials and identification, shall be permitted to enter all properties for the purpose of repairing, replacing, testing or inspection of our equipment (Utility meters. Anyone not allowing access is in violation of the ordinance. Under Penalties, a violation of up to \$100.00 per day can be issued.
A final letter will be issued from the SB Chair, to the homeowners with a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction, prior to any violations occurring.
- As the "old meters" have been replaced, any customer whose utility bill was over averaged, due to meter cards not being returned, have been issued a credit to their account, in order to start "fresh" on the electronic meters.

Town Manager Updates:

- The Library Trustees will be building a 5-year strategic plan. They would like a member of the SB or a town representative to work with the committee.
- In the brief weekly report, there was a sewer leak on Buck Hollow & Hawley Road last week. This was due to a utility pole placed by Green Mountain Power installed through our sewer line years ago. After years of erosion, water was able to penetrate the line, then froze and caused the problem. BP Wastewater responded quickly and over the course of a few days, had the problem fixed. Brad is in discussion with Green Mountain Power over the charges.
- Verizon proposed land lease contract; Brad has been in contact with Andrew Davis several times. Over the course of conversations, the proposed lease has been "tweaked" Brad is happy with where it is at this time and will be presenting it to the board shortly for their review. We will move forward at a future meeting.
- Brad met with Diane Bennink of NEIS to do a procedural audit for our Worker's Compensation procedures.
- Casella will be doing a trash audit on Friday 3/6 to get a sample of where the town is at for recycling. Brad will be part of this audit.
- Our Fire Dept. ladder truck is back from Connecticut after some repairs were done.

Other Business:

S. Cormier felt like there was some push back on the Rescue squad and some of their practices and the funds they are asking for. S. Cormier doesn't feel like we received a clear answer from previous meetings with Rescue Officers. This discussion should continue.

S. Cormier acknowledged the hard work of Deb Woodward and Robby Rodimer for Town Meeting and every day.

There was a nice conversation with the entire room over how to improve attendance for Town Meeting. This year there was an estimate of 115 people. Ideas of babysitting, a potluck or music were discussed.

Trivia! What town in VT had the first Town Meeting and what year?
1762 in Bennington.

Adjournment:

At 7:42 S. Bessette made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Sheri, all in favor.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Amy Sears; Administrative Assistant.

Steven Cormier
Selectboard Chair

**** The recorded meeting is available through LCATV or the Town's website. ****