

AGENDA AND MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2012

1. Call the meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present were MaryLou Jacobs, LaDonna Dunn, Scott Dunn, Philip Gonyaw, Connie LaPlume, Yves Daigle, Hilda Daigle, John Engler, Richard Degre, Larry Kennison, Eric Kennison and Jacques Couture.

2. Review minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes were read and accepted with a motion by Yves Daigle and 2nd by Jacques Couture. So moved.

Under article 3 of the November 12, 2012 meeting. Yves stated that the board of selectmen do not appoint anyone to fill the position to the North Country School Board to replace Dennis Beloin. He was informed of this from OENSU. He did not know who is responsible for an appointment.

This position will be voted on at Town Meeting 2013.

3. Appoint Emergency Management replacement.

Richard Shover has moved out of state. This created an opening for the Emergency Management position. Dennis Neumann and Philip Gonyaw were both interested in taking Richard's place.

Jacques said that he feels Philip would do a good job. He felt Dennis would too. But since the position is for one person only, he made a motion to place Philip Gonyaw as the Emergency Management Co-ordinator. 2nd by Richard Degre. So moved.

4. John Engler from Missisquoi Valley Ambulance regarding an advisory board and an audit of their books.

John Engler was present to tell the board that they would like to form an advisory committee. He said the purpose of this committee would be to attend meetings and bring anything of importance back to the Board. It would also work the other way with the committee member taking anything the board wants the ambulance board to know back to them. The name of Dennis Neumann came up. The clerk will contact him to see if he is interested.

John also wanted to know what the board thought of having someone, the town clerk or an auditor from each town audit the ambulance books. The select board felt it should be an auditor. The clerk will call the auditors to see if one of them is interested. (at the time of typing up these minutes, I (Connie LaPlume) have called Gordon Lesperance, one of the auditors, and he agreed to help with the audit.

5. Policy for taxpayer credits (MaryLou)

MaryLou stated that sometimes there is an overpayment of taxes by the taxpayers. Sometimes a very small amount, sometimes a considerable amount.

MaryLou wanted to know how small an amount needed to be refunded to the taxpayers.

It was the opinion of the complete board that any amount no matter how small was to be returned to the tax payer.

This will be added to the Town Policy booklet.

6. Sign Cemetery Deed. (MaryLou)

The board signed the Cemetery Quit Claim deed. This will be recorded and sent to the lot owner.

7. Sign liquor licenses.

The liquor licenses were signed by the board. These will go out to the business owners for them to fill out and return to the office for processing.

8. Generator for town office.

We have another bid from Ames Electric. This bid was for \$6198. The board feels \$6500 should be raised for the generator. Jacques is expecting one more bid to come.

9. Hilda Daigle regarding museum animails.

Hilda was present to request permission to have the museum expose of several animals that have deteriorated beyond use. Richard Degre and Jacques will go the museum and help dispose of what needs to attended to.

10. Larry Kennison – road commissioner.

Larry is requesting a new sander, salt shed, more money to finish Balance Rock Road and more resurfacing money.

1. the new sander will be approximately \$12,000. The town would purchase it, and own it. Motion by Jacques to put \$12,000 in the budget for town meeting.

2. Salt Shed. The current salt shed is half insulated. Larry said it would need to be completely insulated and heated. This would house equipment.

A new salt shed needs to be built. Larry stated 16 feet by 20 feet would be about the right size needed. Richard stated that it would be good to keep in mind that a sand shed may be a future requirement and to build the salt shed where it could be added on to. A few years ago, the state was talking about all town having sand sheds. The amount needed to complete this project would be \$30,000 to \$35,000.

3. Larry said he can not keep up with the resurfacing that needs to be done with the amount of funds he has to work with. He would like whatever amount that is raised next year for the sander and salt shed to be left in the budget for the following year to help him with resurfacing funds.

4. Balance Rock Road.

Larry said that at the current rate, it will take him 8 years to finish the road through to Route 58. He said the Monteith Road from Balance Rock Road to Route 58 is only 12 feet wide and plowing is difficult.

He said from where is currently working to Greene Hill Road will take him three years.

The board felt that they would be asking the taxpayers for enough money this year.

11. Ramp for Museum/library.

Yves had a sketch of the ramp showing measurements for the railing. He had three estimates for the railing. We are still waiting for estimates for the cement part of the ramp. Once these are received, we will start work on the grant.

12. Appointment of lister.

A resignation was received from Alice Gonyaw effective January 1 2013 resigning from her position as Town Lister.

No one was appointed to that position. It will need to be posted. The position will also be voted on at Town meeting 2013.

13. Equipment and property values (MaryLou)

The clerk gave MaryLou all the documents regarding the town appraisals on each building. The appraisal was done in 2011.

14. FEMA balance due us.

MaryLou stated there is still \$12,385.37 due to the town from FEMA. She will fill out the paperwork and return it to FEMA

15. Jacques Couture – wild and scenic river study

Jacques has served on this committee since it started. They have been working on a Plan. The draft of this plan is on file at the Town office.

The goal is to designate the Missisquoi River & Trout River “wild and scenic”.

This would enhance its value. Jacques stated the committee will adopt the plan at their next meeting.

An article for the 2013 warning in the town report reads: *To see if the voters of the Town of Westfield will petition the Congress of the United States of America that the upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers be designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers with the understanding that such designation would be based on the locally-developed rivers Management Plan and would not involve federal acquisition or management of lands.*

16. Gate on Ducharme Basin Road.

Rick Dyer from Fountain Forestry – overseer of the land tract owned by Huang Equity, spoke with Yves regarding the gate placed on Ducharme Basin. He stated trash, garbage, furniture and dead animals have been dumped on the land at the end of Ducharme Basin. The gate was put up to protect the property. He would like all three selectmen to go with him and see the mess that has been dumped.

He called Yves back and said the gate has been moved to the proper location.

17. Acceptance of bid for LP Tank for generator.

It is not necessary to make a decision at this point. The only thing necessary is to know the amount needed to be raised at town meeting. The estimate for the propane tank and generator together is \$8,000.

18. Letter to Bobby Daigle.

Yves had a letter that the clerk wrote to Bobby Daigle explaining that he is not being discriminated against and charged higher taxes than other people with the same amount of land. The letter gave comparisons of other lots with the values and taxes they pay. Actually, Bobby was the lowest value.

19. Special weight limits for highways.

There are no special weight limits for any Westfield roads or bridges.

20. Sheriff's report.

The last received sheriff's report was reviewed.

21. VLCT dues for 2013.

The dues for 2013 are \$1.02 per capita. This comes to \$1,322 which will have to be figured into the 2013 budget.

22. Boundary update map

This was filled out and the clerk will send it in.

23. Review Town policy for ROW. Also review of Town Policy to date for adoption by the Select men.

A copy of the Town policy was given to each Select man to take home and review. The ROW allowance was added as requested at the November 12, 2012 meeting.

The taxpayer refund policy will be added as requested at this meeting.

The policy will be addressed at the next meeting.

24. Boy Scouts using the Community Center with adult coverage for "lock-ins"

The boy scouts have requested to use the community center for an overnight activity. The board stated that they may use the building, but they are responsible to leave it clean and to cause no damage.

25. Other business.

There will be caroling on the common on Wednesday December 19, at 6:00 p.m. There will be doughnuts, cookies, hot chocolate and cider. The caroling will be led by Marylee Daigle. There will be a band and music provided by young people.

Jacques said there is an interactive tv seminar held for those that are going to apply for grant funds on the highway enhancement. Jacques said he was going to try to attend. Richard said he would try to go too.

Budget meeting set for Monday January 7th at 8:00 a.m.

26. To adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 with a motion by Jacques and 2nd by Yves.

Respectfully Submitted:

Westfield Board of Selectmen