Westfield Selectboard Minutes
July 21, 2014 – 8 am – Town Offices

Present were: Selectboard members: Yves Daigle, Richard Degre; Jacques Couture; Treasurer Mary Lou Jacobs; Lister Danny Young; and Town Clerk LaDonna Dunn

1. **Call meeting to order:** Yves called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

2. **Additions and/or deletions to the Agenda:** There were no changes made to the agenda.

3. **Approve Minutes of the June 9, 2014 meeting:** Jacques moved and Richard seconded to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed unanimously.

   A. Updates to July minutes since last meeting: Jacques reported he has been in contact with Charles Newry and the tree in question and another tree will be removed in the fall.

4. **Tree on Buck Hill Road-Accident:** Yves stated there was an accident reported by Gerard Fitz of Lowell on Buck Hill Road. The large maple tree that was located on the west side of Buck Hill before Balance Rock Road lost a branch which fell into the road and was struck by Gerard Fitz causing damage to his truck. He has asked the Town to pay for the damages. LaDonna has started a general liability loss claim with VLCT-PACIF. We are waiting for the adjuster to contact us. After the accident Larry Kennison cut down the entire tree.

5. **Refrigerator for Lion's Club-Community Center--need vote:** The Lion's Club has asked the Town to purchase a new refrigerator for the Community Center to replace the broken unit. Richard moved and Jacques seconded for the Town to purchase the new refrigerator. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Open Meeting Law changes--need vote to designate 2 places to post Agenda's:** Yves reviewed the new requirements regarding posting of meeting agenda's 48 hours in advance of a regular meeting and 24 hours in advance of a special meeting. Minutes of the meetings must also be posted on the Town website within 5 days of a meeting. Motion by Jacques and second by Richard to post all town meeting notices/agenda's at the Post Office and General Store in addition to the Town Clerk's office. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **Better Back Roads Grant—update:** The Town has been awarded one of the grants that was applied for. We're waiting for the paperwork from the Agency of Transportation for the awarded North Hill Road/School Street grant to be able to proceed with the work.

8. **Generator for Community Center—update:** The generator has been installed by D & D Electric, Inc. It will be programmed with an auto start to come on every Tuesday at 10 am. Richard investigated costs for propane tanks and discovered it is better to let the fuel provider give the Town a free tank so the Town is not responsible for valve inspection costs down the road. An account has been set up with Blue Flame who will provide a 500 gallon in-ground propane tank at no charge They will provide free hook-up and will also hook-up the stove at no cost. If at some point we want to switch propane

providers, the new provider would buy the tank from Blue Flame. It was suggested that we join the Chamber of Commerce to receive the bulk pricing available. Motion by Yves and second by Jacques to join the Chamber of Commerce. Passed unanimously.

9. Set Tax Rate: The municipal tax rate for 2014 was set at .5925. The education tax rate set by the state for Westfield residents will be 1.5027 and for non-residents it will be 1.5675. Tax bills will be mailed approximately the first week of August.

10. Other business:

A. AOT/FEMA Audit: Mary Lou reported there will be a mock AOT audit to prepare the town for a FEMA audit. Mary Lou asked if Yves would like to be present.

B. Dykeman's Tree on North Hill Road/School Street: Yves reported we heard back from Jeremy Tinker at VT Electric Coop and due to the leach field's location directly under the tree and the residents' concerns about this, the Electric Company has denied the request to remove the tree at this time. Yves reported he had told the Dykeman's the Town would pay for any damages to the leach field that may occur during the removal of the tree. LaDonna was asked to contact the Town Attorney and discuss a waiver agreement so the town would be held harmless if the tree fell and damaged anyone's property. Danny Young suggested a Town Policy to address this issue for future instances.

11. Adjourn: Jacques moved and Richard seconded to adjourn at 9:25 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: LaDonna Dunn

LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

Westfield Selectboard Approval Date:

August 11, 2014

Yves Daigle

Yves Daigle, Chair

Richard Degre

Richard Degre

Jacques Couture

Jacques Couture