

**Westfield Selectboard Minutes
February 9, 2015 – 6 p.m. – Town Offices**

Present were: Selectboard Members: Yves Daigle, Richard Degre, Jacques Couture; Treasurer Mary Lou Jacobs; Listers: Danny Young, Scott Dunn; Guest: Graci Rudolph (SASH); Resident: Carolyn Lyster and Town Clerk LaDonna Dunn

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Yves called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- 2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- 3. Approve Minutes of the January 28, 2015 Selectboard-Budget Meeting:** Jacques moved and Richard seconded to approve the minutes with no corrections. Passed unanimously.
- 4. Guest Graci Rudolph from the SASH Program:** Graci explained SASH stands for Support and Services at Home. This is the fourth year of a Pilot Program that began in Vermont. SASH is focused on prevention, education and support to help seniors stay safely living in their homes rather than a long term health care facility. This Medicare funded program is free to qualifying Medicare & Medicaid recipients. Graci explained they customize a program to the particular person's needs and SASH coordinates with other social service agencies to alleviate duplication of services thereby creating a safety net for the senior. She left business cards and flyers to distribute to residents at Town Meeting. The referral for services can come from anyone in the community.
- 5. Guest Carolyn Lister to Discuss Speeding on North Hill Road & Closing Reservoir Rd. Earlier:** Carolyn feels the Town should do something to remove Reservoir Road from GPS because out of the area people are being directed to this road and getting stuck in the snow. She explained that people move the barrel that is currently used to block the road early in the winter. After entering the road they don't put the barrel back in place. Unsuspecting out of area people then drive down the road and get stuck in the snow. The suggestion to put up 10' cement barricades with road closed signs on them after the first snowfall was discussed. The Selectboard will discuss this at their annual AOT district meeting and see how other Towns handle this type of situation. It was brought to the Selectboards attention that the school bus and tractor trailer trucks are using Reservoir Road. Signs will possibly be posted. Carolyn also expressed concern about speeding at the top of North Hill Road near her home. Richard suggested placing an S curve sign in this location. Recently the missing 35 mph signs were replaced and the Sheriff has been issuing citations for speeding.
- 6. Listers to Explain Equalization Study (CLA & COD):** The Listers explained the difference between the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) to the Selectboard. The CLA and COD are determined by Property Valuation and Review using the last three years of sales data. The CLA compares actual sales price to assessed value. 100% indicates all properties are assessed at 100% fair market value. The COD measures how far the sales price differs from the assessed value. 0% indicates that all properties sold at 100% fair market value. The CLA is an average whereas the COD is a measure of variance. The state can mandate the Town to have a town wide reassessment of all properties when the CLA drops to 80% or the COD reaches 20%. Currently the Town's CLA is 99.22% and the COD is 15.20%.
- 7. Letter from DuBois & King, Inc. – Upcoming Road Work & Bridge:** Yves read a letter from DuBois & King explaining that in 2015-16 there will be a rehabilitation project to resurface

VT 242 beginning at MM 2.573 in the Town of Westfield and extending easterly for a distance of 6.466 miles to MM 0.315 in the Town of Troy. The bridge on the Loop Road needs to have some repairs. This will be discussed at the annual AOT district meeting to see if there are any grants available.

8. Sign Certificate of Highway Mileage: The Selectboard signed the certificate and instructed the Clerk to mail it to the State for their approval. It will be recorded in the land records when the final signatures are in place from the State.

9. Sheriff's Report – December 2014: There were 19 ½ patrol hours and \$986 in civil fines for December.

10. Mitigation Report from FEMA: Yves and LaDonna reviewed the request from NVDA for the Town to participate in creating a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. NVDA received a mega-grant to help towns complete this plan. According to NVDA the cost to the Town would not exceed \$4025 which can come from in-kind matches such as attending meetings. This is a four part process which includes: adopting AOT Town Road & Bridge Standards (completed); adopting flood regs that meet NFIP standards (completed); adopting a local Hazard Mitigation Plan; and adopting a Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). LaDonna has turned in the preliminary data to Bruce Melendy at NVDA who will draft the LEOP document. In addition to receiving hazard mitigation funds, the Town would be eligible to receive 50% of matching funds from the State in the event of the next publically declared disaster. This is a three year grant and Westfield would be slated to participate in 2017. Jacques moved and Richard seconded to work with NVDA to create a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Passed unanimously.

11. Resolution for Renewable Energy: After reviewing a letter from the Town of Rutland which is a proponent of the renewable energy resolution and a letter from Renewable Energy Vermont which is opposed, the Selectboard was in agreement to take no action on this request.

12. Other Business: Yves announced we received a letter from the Orleans County Treasurer stating the assessment of county tax for the year will be \$10,382.15. It was budgeted for \$10,700.

13. Adjourn: Richard moved and Jacques seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by:

LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

Westfield Selectboard Approval

Date: _____ **with** _____ **changes**

Yves Daigle, Chair

Richard Degre

Jacques Couture