

Westfield Selectboard Minutes
December 12, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. – Town Offices

Present were: Selectboard members: Yves Daigle, Chair; Richard Degre (arrived late at 6:55 p.m. before Article 5) and Jacques Couture; Treasurer: Mary Lou Jacobs; Town Clerk: LaDonna Dunn; Property Owner: Dan Backus; Guests Kate Willard: State Department of Forests, Parks & Recs and Carl Powden; Vermont Land Trust.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Yves.
2. **Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda:** Added Backus Conservation Proposal as Article 3A and Wild & Scenic River Committee under Other Business as Article 15A.
3. **Approve Minutes of the November 14, 2016 Selectboard Meeting:** Motion by Jacques and second by Yves to approve the minutes as read with no changes. So moved.

3A. Backus Conservation Proposal: Property Owner Dan Backus was present, as well as Kate Willard from the State Department of Forests, Parks & Recs and Carl Powden from the Vermont Land Trust, to share with the Selectboard their proposal for Dan Backus to conserve 514 acres of his land located on Kingdom Mountain Road. They have been working on this proposal for 5 to 6 years. The conservation program, funded through the Forest Service, is called the Forest Legacy Program. The proposal is to conserve all of Dan's forest land, excluding the 35 acres around his house, which will allow public foot access to the land. No motor vehicles, including Skidoo and ATV's, would be permitted unless the property owner gives express permission. Kate explained they are requesting the Selectboards support of this project so they can move forward to the next step. A motion was made by Jacques and second by Yves for the Selectboard to go on record supporting the conservation of Dan Backus' property as proposed. So moved.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Mary Lou handed out an up-to-date budget for the Selectboard to review before the budget meeting on January 4th at 8 a.m.

A. Approve Warrants for Expenditures Dated 11-30 & 12-7-16: Motion by Yves and second by Jacques to approve the warrants as listed. So moved.

5. **Discuss Property Owners Request to Put Gate on Corrow Basin Road:** Richard Degre arrived at this point of the meeting. He said Curtis and Bruce Johnson have asked him what would be involved to put a gate across Corrow Basin Road. Corrow Basin Road is Class 4 road which turns into a legal trail and then turns into a private drive. Class 4 roads and legal trails are town owned roads but the town is not legally responsible to plow or provide any maintenance of these roads. According to the tax maps it turns into a private drive at a certain point on the road. The property owners will be contacted to attend a future Selectboard meeting to see if the placement of the gate would fall on the legal trail section or on the private section of the road.

6. **Follow-up on Labor Law for Paid Training Hours-Mary Lou Jacobs:** Mary Lou spoke with the Department of Labor and discovered town officers/employees who attend trainings are to be paid from the moment they leave their home until the moment they return to their home. She also said she got clarification that elected officials are exempt from overtime.

7. Sheriff's Reports for November & Discuss New VALCOUR Reporting: Yves said the November report had not yet arrived. He said it appears the new VALCOUR reporting will not show the amount of the fines levied as in the past.

8. Recycling Updates: Yves reported the NEKWMD Board will be voting on charter changes at their 12/13/16 meeting. If the vote passes it will then go to the Legislature for approval.

A. Discuss/Approve New Trash Pricing: After discussion, there was a motion by Richard and second by Jacques to increase trash disposal prices at the Recycling Center to the following effective January 1, 2017: \$1.50/13 gallon bag; \$3.00/30 gallon bag and \$4.00/50 gallon bag. So moved. This will help offset the anticipated weekly recycling pick up fee proposed by the Waste Management District. Mary Lou will make new signage for the Recycling Center to be posted reflecting the pricing change for trash. She will include tire prices on the flyer.

B. Discuss Tire Pricing: The tire pricing will remain the same for 14", 15", 16" and 17" tires without rims being \$3.00/per tire and 14", 15", 16" and 17" tires with rims being \$5.00/per tire. Yves pays Westfield Automotive \$1/tire to remove the rims before they are taken to the salvage yard.

9. Road Updates: Yves asked the Selectboard to be thinking of culvert projects that may need to be done so we can apply for grants in 2017. The culvert on North Hill Road near Kennison Road will be the 2017 grant project completed. The Buck Hill Structures Grant is complete including the guardrails. The grant money has been received for the Buck Hill project. The Loop Road Structures Grant for Bridge #16 was discussed. This grant will be put out to bid again this winter/spring. Mary Lou will check with Shane Morin at the AOT District Office to see if a new grant is being written or if the old grant is being revised/modified to include the anticipated increase. The Town's match will need to be included in the 2017 budget. The extra signage has all been installed in the problematic curve areas on North Hill Road near Reservoir Road. The barricades are in place for the winter at each end of Reservoir Road. They will be removed in the spring.

10. Replacement for Denny Lyster on Planning Commission: Yves read a letter of resignation from Planning Commission Chair, Denny Lyster. Loren Petzoldt may be interested in being appointed by the Selectboard to this position. Yves will discuss this further with Loren and the appointment will be made at the next meeting.

11. Update on School Board Appointments: Yves read Chad Prue's letter of resignation and reported that Nicole Dunn has been appointed by the Westfield School Board to fill the position until she can be elected at Town Meeting to fill Chad's unexpired term. At this time the School Board positions for the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School and the North Country Union High School are filled.

12. VLCT Dues for 2017: Yves reviewed a letter from VLCT which states our dues are based on a population of 536 and will be \$1591 in 2017 which is up from the 2016 amount of \$1540. As in past years, this will be a line item in the Selectboard's proposed budget rather than an appropriation request.

13. Legislative Changes for PILOT Payments: Yves reviewed a letter that came from the State of Vermont outlining changes to the formula used to determine Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) payments. According to the letter Westfield will be receiving \$24,326.25 for the FY17 PILOT.

14. Letter from Prudential Committee: Yves said he received a letter from Gordon Lesperance stating that Gordon has resigned from the Prudential Committee. Gordon's term is coming to an end so the Fire District is looking for someone to run for his position on the Board. Yves stated that Gordon and his wife are moving to Derby. This prompted discussion about his position as an Auditor. Mary Lou will call VLCT to see if he can retain his position as an Auditor in an appointed capacity.

15. Other Business:

A. Wild and Scenic River Committee: As a follow up to last month's meeting, Jacques spoke with Ellen Fox who is interested in serving on the committee. Motion by Jacques and second by Richard to appoint Ellen Fox as the Westfield representative to the Wild and Scenic River Committee. So moved.

B. Waive Community Center Rental Fee: Richard Degre said Joyce Crawford asked him if the Selectboard would consider waiving the rental fee for the Community Center for the Memorial Service for Denny Willis. After discussion the Selectboard was in agreement to waive the rental fee. Joyce will be notified.

C. Ballground Road: Jacques reviewed an email from John Monette asking for a letter from the Selectboard to assure the prospective buyers of the Mayhew property on Ballground Road that the Selectboard does not have intentions of throwing up the road or putting further restrictions on the legal trail. Motion by Jacques and second by Yves to draft a letter stating, as has been the policy of the Selectboard, they do not have intentions of giving up any town roads or legal trails. So moved. The Clerk will draft the letter for the Selectboard to approve.

D. Septic Issue at Community Center: Yves reported the septic blockage issue has been resolved. The Selectboard discussed possibly changing the configuration of the sewer piping leaving the building to alleviate future problems.

E. Home Burial Site: Town Health Officer Mary Lou Jacobs and Yves will visit the site Jim and Linda Cunningham have selected for their home burial site to make sure it meets state statutory requirements.

F. Caroling on the Common: Yves reported there was a large crowd for the event and everyone had a good time.

16. Adjourn: Motion by Jacques and second by Richard to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. So moved.

Minutes submitted by: _____
LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

Westfield Selectboard Approval:

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

Yves Daigle, Chair

Richard Degre

Jacques Couture