

Westfield Selectboard Minutes

September 29, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m. In-Person Meeting at the Westfield Town Office, 38 School St.

Town Officials Present: Selectboard members: Jacques Couture (Chair), and Anne Lazor; Treasurer, Mary Lou Jacobs; Assistant Treasurer, Lisa Deslandes; Town Clerk, LaDonna Dunn; Assistant Town Clerk, Karen Blais; and Road Commissioner, Eric Kennison (for a portion of the meeting).

Community Members Present: Michael Saloomey; and Richard and Jan Degre

1. **Call Meeting to Order – Jacques Couture, Chair:** Jacques called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. **Public Comment – 5 Minutes:** None
3. **Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda:** Added as 9B: Broadband Member Community Survey.
4. **Approve Minutes of the 8/16/21 & 9/20/21 (Note Error: SHOULD BE 9/13/21—not 9/20/21) Selectboard Meeting & Business from the Minutes:** Motion by Anne and second by Jacques to approve the 8/16/21 & 9/20/21 minutes (error in Agenda—date should be 9/13/21) with no changes. There was no business from the minutes discussed.

5. **Update on Filling Vacancies/Jobs Held by Yves Daigle:**

A. Determine how Selectboard Position will be Filled (Special Election, Appointment, Special Town Meeting?): After considerable discussion, it was decided to hold a special Australian ballot election for the open Selectboard position left by the passing of Yves Daigle. LaDonna contacted the Secretary of State's Office, Election Division, and learned due to special Covid legislation enacted (Act 162) through 2021, we are able to vote by Australian ballot even though we traditionally vote for Selectboard seats from the floor at Town Meeting. The Selectboard felt this was the fairest way, affording the most people an opportunity to vote, in this special election. Motion by Jacques and second by Anne to hold a Special Election for Selectboard Member by Australian ballot on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. The polls will open at the Westfield Community Center at 9 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available a minimum of 20 days before the election. Those interested in running for the open Selectboard seat must turn in Candidate Nominating Forms by 4 p.m. on Monday, November 8, 2021, for their name to be printed on the Australian ballot. The normal 5% voter signature requirement for a candidate's name to appear on the ballot has been waived through 2021 due to Act 162. LaDonna will draft a flyer to hand out at the Recycling Center and to post around town explaining this process.

B. NEKWMD Board Representative (meets once a month): Motion by Anne to appoint Jacques as the new representative to replace Yves Daigle. The Clerk will contact the Waste Management District with Jacques' contact information.

C. Recycling Attendant: One application has been turned in. It was noted some people in the community are considering applying for the position. There was discussion about having a team approach so one person wasn't committed year-round on Saturdays. Michael Saloomey suggested contacting the Department of Labor to post the job opening. The Clerk will handle this.

D. Sexton for North Hill Cemetery and Westfield Cemetery: Jacques reported Todd Morey has offered to help. He helps at the Troy Cemeteries. Karen prepared a comparison of cemetery plot prices in surrounding communities. This will be discussed further at an upcoming Selectboard meeting or at the budget meetings.

E. Mowing at Library and North Hill Cemetery: Per the discussion at the last Selectboard meeting, Jacques spoke with Tommy Bathalon, who is currently mowing the Common and surrounding areas. Tommy agreed to mow the North Hill Cemetery and the Library for the remainder of this season and do the fall cleanup. He will add the additional mowing/cleanup to his final bill for the 2021 season. Motion by Anne and second by Jacques for Tommy Bathalon to complete the areas mowed by Yves Daigle for the balance of 2021 and to add the mowing/cleanup of the North Hill Cemetery and the Library to the Common/Recreation Area/Community Center/Town Office mowing contract for 2022.

6. Recycling Update:

A. Determine what Returnable Bottle Money will be used for: Tabled until Jacques can bring bottles to the Westfield General Store and determine what the average weekly income from bottles is.

B. Participate in Tire Pickup with Town of Troy in October (they meet on Thursday): Jacques will talk to Gaston Bathalon to see when they plan to hold their event and report back at the next meeting.

C. Get Cameras Online: LaDonna will contact D & D Electric for a service call.

D. Discuss Policy for Allowing Trash Dropoff Outside of Saturday Recycling Hours: No changes.

E. Discuss Continuing to Accept Bulkie Trash Items: No changes at this time. This will be re-evaluated if there are concerns expressed by the trash hauler.

F. Cement Work Under Rolloff: Eric said the job will need to be requoted. As soon as Eric gets the new quote, he will forward it to the Selectboard.

7. Permission for Clerk to Sign Excess Weight Permits: LaDonna explained this permit is issued to trucks driving on Westfield roads. Applications are due by April 1 each year. The cost of the permit is \$5 for one truck or \$10 for a fleet. The company submits a one-page permit form, the required application fee, as well as a list of vehicle ID's and proof of insurance. LaDonna asked for the Selectboards approval to let her sign the permits to expedite the process. Motion by Jacques and second by Anne allowing the Town Clerk to sign the permits.

8. Delinquent Dog Warrant: The Selectboard signed the dog warrant authorizing the 2nd Constable, Mike Piper, to visit the three dog owners who have not licensed their dogs. These people will be charged an additional \$25 per Constable visit until their dog licenses are current.

9. Other Business:

A. Reminder: The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) Tax Grievance Hearing for Richard and Lolita Allard reconvenes Tuesday, October 5th at 6 p.m., Community Center

B. Broadband Member Community Survey: LaDonna explained an email with a survey was sent for the Selectboard to respond to within two weeks. The purpose of the survey is to identify areas in CUD member towns which could possibly be used to house equipment or supplies needed to build infrastructure. After reviewing the survey, the Selectboard felt they needed to give this some thought and will revisit it at the next meeting. LaDonna will contact Westfield's CUD Representative, Carrie Glessner-Young, and explain more time will be needed to complete the survey.

C. Reschedule Next Meeting: Due to scheduling conflicts the October Selectboard meeting was changed from the regular 3rd Monday of the month (October 18th) to the 2nd Monday of the month (October 11th).

D. Scheduling of Budget Meetings: The Budget Planning Meetings were scheduled for December 7th at 8 a.m. and December 21st at 8 a.m.

10. Adjourn: Following a motion by Anne and second by Jacques it was agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Westfield Selectboard Approval: Date: 10/11/21 with Ø change(s)

Jacques Couture
Jacques Couture, Chair

Anne Lazor
Anne Lazor

Minutes submitted by: LaDonna Dunn
LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk