

Westfield Selectboard Minutes
June 8, 2015 – 6 p.m. – Town Offices

Present were:

Selectboard members: Yves Daigle, Chair; Richard Degre and Jacques Couture
Lister: Scott Dunn; Treasurer: Mary Lou Jacobs; Town Clerk: LaDonna Dunn and
Guest: Graci Rudolph;

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Yves at 6:05 p.m.
- 2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda:** LaDonna requested adding, additional signage at the tennis court, ````to other business.
- 3. Approve Minutes of the April 13, 2015 Selectboard Meeting:** Motion by Jacques and second by Richard to approve the minutes with two changes. Passed unanimously.
- 4. Guest-Graci Rudolph Representing SASH:** Yves introduced Graci Rudolph from the SASH program. Graci explained that her agency works with Rural Edge Housing & Development. SASH and Rural Edge have been exploring the idea of purchasing Scenic View Community Care Home in Westfield. If they were to purchase the facility they would continue the residential community care services currently provided and add a full time SASH coordinator for Westfield and the surrounding areas. She said the agencies are looking into ways to make this purchase possible. Graci asked the Selectboard if a moratorium on taxes for a period of time could be considered. She said ideally a five year tax exemption would help but any consideration would make the purchase easier. She said no expansion of the facility was being discussed at this point. Yves explained that Graci had discussed this idea with him when she asked to be put on the agenda so he had asked the Town Clerk to contact VLCT for information on exempting taxes. Upon investigation the Town learned the Selectboard does not have the legal right to exempt taxes. This would need to be a decision of the voters at a legally warned town meeting or special meeting. Further, Yves stated that school taxes can't be exempted because the Town still has to pay the school tax. Jacques commented that whatever municipal taxes may be exempted by a town vote still have to be raised and the non-exempted taxpayers have to absorb the addition cost of the exemption. Mary Lou asked if Rural Edge owned any other assisted living facilities. Graci stated this would be the first. LaDonna asked what tax status Rural Edge had. Graci said it was a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. LaDonna gave Graci copies of the statutory information from VLCT for her to take back to Tracy Engels, C.O.O. of Rural Edge. Graci stated now that SASH and Rural Edge have this information they will look into the legalities further. The Selectboard thanked Graci for the work her agency has done in Westfield.
- 5. Listers Report-Scott Dunn:** Scott said the Listers have corrected numerous errors and omissions in the Grand List and Tax Map. Ninety-two Change of Appraisal Notices have been mailed. Fifty-nine were for Grand List changes and thirty-two were for Current Use. The Lister Grievance Hearings will be held on June 20. He said Town Attorney Bill Davies has resolved the 'mystery' parcel. The 28.9 acre parcel belongs to Green Mountain Chipping. They will receive a tax bill this year. The Listers also discovered another 'mystery' parcel and have identified the parcel belongs to Roger and Jeannine Kennison.

Scott said the Listers have been working to clarify some Current Use questions regarding the Monastery. The Listers, District Advisor from PVR and Monastery officials are having ongoing discussions and are close to a resolution. Yves mentioned having the Listers verify the acreage owned by Sally Caron on North Hill Road.

6. Library:

A. Review Letters of Interest for Librarian Position: Yves recused himself due to a conflict of interest and left the meeting for this discussion and vote. Richard and Jacques reviewed the 6 letters of interest/resumes for the Librarian position. There was a motion by Jacques and second by Richard to hire Marylee Daigle for the position with LaDonna and Mary Lou to serve as her supervisors. Passed unanimously. LaDonna will send letters thanking all other applicants for their interest in the position. Rachel Gunn's last day will be June 11. LaDonna will contact Marylee and coordinate training with Rachel.

B. Appoint New Librarian: Marylee Daigle was appointed as the new Librarian effective June 16 as noted in Article 6A.

C. Update on CLiF Grant-Kickoff Event October 19-LaDonna Dunn: LaDonna explained the grant award is a privately funded grant and Westfield is the first of the grants to receive funding. The kickoff event will be October 19 at the Jay Westfield Elementary School. LaDonna will work with Marylee and Principal Kristy Ellis to coordinate the event in conjunction with the CLiF grant coordinator. We are waiting for the grant booklet to arrive that has further details about how the grant is implemented.

7. Lynn Danforth-Pay Increase: Yves proposed increasing Lynn's pay from \$15 to \$20 to mow the Common. Motion by Richard and second by Jacques to increase Lynn's pay to \$20 per mowing. Passed unanimously.

8. Update on Mystery Parcel: This issue is resolved as noted in Article 5.

9. Drain-Town Garage: Yves read a letter from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding underground injection control (UIC) program updates. The UIC program has amended its rule (adopted October 29, 2014) and floor drains are prohibited unless the floor drain is connected to a public sewer or to a holding tank. According to the letter we must close the floor drain at the Town Garage. LaDonna will look into this and report back to the Selectboard via email.

10. Update on Municipal Street Lighting Program: Yves reported a portion of the new street lights have been installed. He said they are not as bright as the old lights.

11. Update on Rural Fire Hydrant Grant: Yves will speak with Eric and get the revised budget figures and they will be submitted to Troy Dare. Once this happens the grant process will move forward.

12. State of Vt. Dept. of Taxes: Yves reviewed a letter showing the PILOT program assessed values placed on the State Garage buildings. One of the buildings is not included. Mary Lou will contact District 9 AOT and see if we can get the assessment included for all three buildings.

13. Sheriff's Report for March & April: There were \$375 in fines and 22.5 patrol hours in March and \$379 in fines and 22.5 patrol hours in April.

14. Treasurer's Report-Mary Lou Jacobs:

A. Update from Last Month on Worker's Comp Insurance for Elected Officials: Mary Lou reported as long as elected officials are on payroll they are covered by the towns worker's comp insurance.

15. Recycling Center Lighting Update: Yves reported the new lighting has been installed and is a big improvement.

16. Website/Social Media-Discuss Content-LaDonna Dunn: LaDonna asked the Selectboard for guidance on the types of things they feel are appropriate to post on the Town's Facebook page and who can be included in links on the 'community links' page on the Town Website. They felt promoting events held in Westfield on the Facebook page would benefit Westfield businesses and would be appropriate. They felt links to public agencies on the website would be beneficial to help residents trying to locate resources. They did not want to promote links that were advertising related. They left it to the webmasters discretion.

17. Town Plan Regional Approval Update-LaDonna Dunn: The Westfield Town Plan received regional planning commission approval at the May 2015 NVDA Board meeting.

18. Delinquent Dog List: LaDonna reported there are 2 dog owners (2 dogs) on the delinquent dog license list. She sent two reminder notices and made phone calls to these people. The Selectboard instructed the Clerk to give the list to Constable Mike Piper so he can make enforcement visits.

19. Other Business:

A. Cut Trees on Buck Hill: Yves reported there is a section of white birch trees on Buck Hill Road that are leaning over the road. Larry Kennison doesn't have time to remove the trees. Motion by Jacques and second by Richard to hire Yves to cut the trees. Passed unanimously. Yves will contact the property owners to see if they want the wood. If they do not want it Yves will take the wood.

B. Signs on Tennis Court: LaDonna stated there have been dogs coming to the recreation area with people playing tennis and they have been running at large. These could be people who are unaware that there is a village dog ordinance that has have a leash law. She recommended that a sign reading, 'No Pets Allowed on Premises' be posted on the tennis court next to the other signage. The Selectboard was in agreement. Mary Lou will order the sign from the Prison Print Shop.

20. Adjourn: Motion by Richard and second by Jacquesto adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: _____
LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

Westfield Selectboard Approval

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

Yves Daigle, Chair

Richard Degre

Jacques Couture

UNAPPROVED