

Westfield Selectboard Minutes
December 14, 2015 – 6 p.m. – Town Offices

Present were:

Selectboard members: Yves Daigle, Chair; Richard Degre and Jacques Couture; Treasurer, Mary Lou Jacobs; Town Clerk, LaDonna Dunn; Planning Commissioner, Dianne Laplante; Westfield School Board Member, Loren Petzoldt; Listers, Danny Young, Scott Dunn and Steve Dykeman

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Yves called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- 2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda:** LaDonna requested adding under Other Business Article 20A-Letter from City of Newport and 20B-Montgomery Town Plan.
- 3. Approve Minutes of the October 12, 2015 Selectboard Meeting:** Motion by Jacques and second by Richard to approve the minutes with one change to Article 7B. Passed unanimously.
- 4. Planning Workshop Update-Dianne Laplante (5 minutes):** Dianne gave a report on the recent VLCT workshop she attended. She learned it is important in the Town Plan to identify by name places of special value within the town, including ridgelines, water bodies, ponds, greens, etc. VLCT feels towns can maintain more control over what happens in these areas, such as wind and solar projects, if they are specifically named in the Town Plan and not just addressed in the Zoning Bylaws. A copy of Dianne's notes will be made available to Denny Lyster, the Chairman of the Planning Commission.
- 5. Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School Board-Community Forum 1/6/16 at 6 p.m.:** Loren Petzoldt explained there are two items being discussed. The first discussion is the possibility of the Westfield School District joining the North Country Union Junior High School District (NCUJHS). Jay currently belongs to the NCUJHS District. Loren explained that currently the Westfield School District pays tuition to any junior high school a parent of a 7th or 8th grader wishes, with the tuition capped at what the North Country Union Junior High rate is. This would involve an Australian ballot vote by Westfield on Town Meeting Day, March 1, 2016. Simultaneously, the other towns in the NCUJHS District would have to vote at their Town Meetings to accept Westfield into the District, contingent upon the vote passing in Westfield. Loren felt if the NCUJHS vote passed it would most likely take effect in fiscal year 2017-18. The second discussion is creating a Jay/Westfield Unified District. This can only happen if Westfield joins the NCUJHS District. There is a Community Forum scheduled for January 6, 2016 at 6 p.m. at the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School so community members can ask questions about these two issues and become informed before Town Meeting. Loren felt if a Unified School District is created it would most likely take effect in 2018-19.
- 6. Listers-Update Laraway:** The Listers informed the Selectboard that Laraway Family and Youth Services applied for a property tax exemption. Although they meet the qualifications, the Listers have not yet made a decision regarding the exemption. Before they make their final decision they are getting more information from the Listers in Johnson,

VLCT and Property Valuation & Review. The Selectboard acknowledged that Laraway qualifies for the exemption but asked for further clarification on the statutory requirements.

7. North Hill Cemetery Update: Richard has spoken with Lonnie Brow to get a quote to survey the piece of property Merlin Backus has offered to donate to the Town for the addition to the North Hill Cemetery. The cost would be \$1,000-\$1,500 which includes all of the state sub-division paperwork. Motion by Jacques and second by Yves to hire Lonnie Brow to survey the property, complete the required state paperwork and provide a mylar map for recording in the Town Clerk's office. Passed unanimously. LaDonna was asked to provide Lonnie with a copy of Merlin's deed and the North Hill Cemetery deed.

8. Library Update (Sundays/Mini-Grant): LaDonna reported the Library has received a mini-grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) for \$250 which will be used for Sunday programming events this winter. The first event, an Ornament Workshop, was held on December 6 with 20 children plus their parents in attendance. Favorable comments were received and many in attendance had not visited the Library before.

9. Dykeman Tree Quote: Yves is still waiting for a quote. Steve Dykeman said he will take care of the wood when it is cut.

10. Treasurer:

A. Approve Warrants for Bills (Oct. 7, 15, 16, 21, 28, 29; Nov. 4, 12, 13, 18, 19, 25; Dec. 2, 9) and Payroll (Oct. 7, 8, 21; Nov. 4, 19; Dec. 2): Motion by Jacques and second by Richard to approve the warrants for bills and payroll as listed in article 10A. Passed unanimously.

B. Discuss Draft of Letter of Understanding between Kennison & Son and Town of Westfield presented at the 10/12/15 Selectboard Meeting: It was agreed that Mary Lou will draft a shortened version of this letter and email it to the Selectboard before the next meeting.

C. Set Date for Budget Meeting: The Budget meeting will be January 8, 2016 at 8 a.m. It was suggested that Mary Lou and LaDonna prepare a draft version of the budget that will be emailed to the Selectboard for review prior to the meeting.

11. Roads:

A. Update on Dry Hydrant Grant Work: Eric had to pump all the pond out before the work could begin. The wrong hydrant was shipped so there was a slight delay completing the project. Paperwork and inspection will be completed by the end of the month.

B. Tree Removal on Balance Rock Road: Yves reported he cut approximately 500 trees with the help of Normand Piette and Walker Farley. Kennison & Son will burn the branches. The property owners Forrester was pleased with the work.

C. Barricades for Reservoir Road: Motion by Richard and second by Yves to instruct Larry Kennison to purchase two 12' or 14' barricades to put at each end of Reservoir Road by December 1 each year. Passed unanimously. Yves will talk to Larry or Eric about this.

D. Sign Structures Grant: Yves signed the Structures Grant for the Loop Road Bridge. The Clerk will send this along with the required Certificate of Insurance to the Agency of Transportation. This will be included in 2016 budgeting.

12. Floor Drain at Town Garage: Richard and Yves looked at the drain set up at Laliberty's Trucking. The Selectboard was in agreement to construct a similar drain system for the Westfield Town Garage over the winter.

13. Front Porch Forum Request: A donation request was received from Front Porch Forum. They did not want to put their request in the form of an appropriation. It was noted they are not a non-profit corporation. Motion by Richard and second by Jacques to table this item. Motion passed.

14. Recycling/NEKWMD Update: Yves reviewed the December 9 letter the Town received from Paul Tomasi about e-waste which clarifies that e-waste can still be collected at the recycling centers until July 1, but towns will not receive a payment. The contract with the hauler will be re-negotiated July 1, 2016. Richard asked about trash and tire fees and wondered if we were charging enough to cover the cost. This will be evaluated when the budget is prepared. Yves reported that the waste management district is looking at how recyclables are being picked up by the hauler and may be providing the Recycling Center dumpsters so weekly pickups would change to every other week. The NEKWMD applied for and was granted a variance for yard waste so Westfield is exempt from having to collect this type of waste.

15. Sheriff's Report: There were 22 patrol hours resulting in 2 citations totaling \$400 in fines for October. There were 29.5 patrol hours resulting in 3 citations totaling \$210 in fines for November.

16. VLCT Dues: VLCT dues for 2016 will be \$1540. This will be included in the budget.

17. Support Request from the Town of Irasburg: Yves read an email from the Town of Irasburg asking for letters of support to help towns have more say in the decision making process with the public service board and legislators regarding industrial wind projects. After discussion no action was taken.

18. Caroling on the Common-Friday, December 18th- 6:00 p.m.: Yves said everything is organized for the Caroling on the Common. Andy from the Hardware Store will again be Santa.

19. Update on Inspection of all Town Facilities from Vt. League of Cities and Towns: Yves reported the only item not completed is the handrail at the Library.

20. Other Business:

A. Letter from City of Newport: LaDonna read a letter from Laura Dolgin, Newport City Manager, on behalf of the Newport City Council proposing that the Newport Police Department operate a county-wide Dispatch Center available for all emergency service disciplines that provide primary responses for Orleans County. There is an informational meeting in the Newport City Council room on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. No action was taken.

B. Montgomery Town Plan: LaDonna told the Selectboard that in accordance with Vermont statute the Town of Montgomery has provided a draft copy of the proposed new Town Plan. Planning Commission Chair Denny Lister will be notified that this is available.

C. Letter from Red Cross: Yves read a note from the American Red Cross thanking the Town for their Appropriation.

21. Adjourn: Motion by Richard and second by Jacques to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: _____
LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

Westfield Selectboard Approval:

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

Yves Daigle, Chair

Richard Degre

Jacques Couture