Draft – subject to final approval

SELECT BOARD **May 19, 2015**

PRESENT: Margaretta Howe, John Doten, Bruce Gould, Bob Holt, Phil Swanson, Mary Riley, Alan Beebe, Jay Morgan, Gail Childs, Bruce Franzen, Darlyne Franzen, Steve Johanssen, Reid Richardson, Charlie Wilson, Liza Wilson,

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Howe called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

II. ADDITIONS TO AND DELETIONS FROM THE POSTED AGENDA

None this evening

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

David Brown, gave an overall update to the Board concerning EC Fiber. Of the 3 bills in the legislature involving ownership of conduit, the tele com bill, and make ready timing for the poles and utilities to be ready.

The telecom bill passed the legislature, which supports the vote at Town Meeting. The Select Board may have to acknowledge that it is the same as that vote.

The make ready issue widely gives whoever owns the poles specific times (up to 18 months) to install the pole, EC Fiber must pay when the application is submitted, however there is no revenue until a connection is made.

The pre-registration campaign has been launched in South Woodstock.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. The Meeting with the Investment Banker has been rescheduled for June 9. The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M.

B. Economic Development Commission

Charlie Kimbell was present to discuss membership on the Economic Development Commission and timing and process for collecting funds which will come to the Town through the State of Vermont, Tax Department.

Following discussion of the possibility of an economic development council and membership on the commission the Select Board authorized Mr. Kimbell to proceed to advertise for new membership. Mr. Kimbell submitted a proposed application, which was reviewed and approved by the Select Board.

Charlie Shackleton has remained an active member and is interested in continuing, Mr. Kimbell proposes a commission of 5 to 7 members. The tax collection begins July 1 with the first money coming to the Town around October 1, 2015. It will be important for the Commission to establish a plan for use of the money and come back to select board to present this plan.

The application will be placed on the website. Review of these applications will take place at the June meeting.

Review Proposals for Elevator Walkway

The Select Board briefly reviewed applications for the Elevation Walkway reconstruction. The proposals are much higher than what has been budgeted. This seems to be the current trend with construction projects. Mr. Swanson will have more information available at a later meeting, after further discussion with the architect and engineer.

C. Westerdale Road

A survey has determined that in breaking down class 3 mileage and class 4 mileage on the state map for Westerdale Road, TH 16, the mileage is not correct. This will be corrected on the Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage where some class 3 mileage is converted to class 4 mileage, when it is submitted in February, 2016.

D. Bridge 51 Comments / Follow Up from Meeting

Select Board reviewed a summary of comments following the meeting about Bridge 51 (The Post Office Bridge).

On a motion of Mr. Doten, second Mr. Gould the Select Board voted to approve and sign the comments and submit them to the Agency of Transportation. Motion approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Applications for Overweight Truck Permits

On a motion of Mr. Doten, second Mr. Gould the Select Board voted to approve overweight truck permits for Casella Construction, LaValley Building Supplies, Field & Sons Transportation, Inc., Travis Gault, Schulz Excavation, Inc., James M. Havill Excavating, Norman E. Martin II, Richard Sargent.

Motion approved.

B. Review Bids for Audit Services

The Select Board reviewed the proposals received for Audit Services. Mr. Swanson recommends accepting the proposal from Mudgett, Jennett, Krogh-Wisner since the hours proposed are most realistic.

Following brief discussion, on a motion of Mr. Holt, second Mr. Gould the Select Board voted to accept the proposal for the Annual Audit from Mudgett Jennett Krogh-Wisner. Motion approved. .

C. Vermont 100

On a motion of Mr. Gould, second Mr. Holt, the Select Board voted to approve use of Town Roads for the Vermont 100. Motion approved.

D. Taftsville Solar Farm

Neighbors of the proposed Solar Farm on property between the Taftsville Cemetery and Butternut Lane were present to express their concerns.

Triland Partners, with developer Tom Garden is applying to make the first 500 kW installation, which will be followed by a second installation and the total will be 1 mgw, but with the two installations the developer will be able to have a more expedient approval process.

Reid Richardson, Charlie Wilson, Bruce Franzen, Liza Wilson, Barbara Barry and Gail Childs spoke about their concerns with Solar Farm as proposed.

The proposed site abuts a wetland of Butternut Lane, cemetery and plant and wild life is a concern. Taftsville neighbors consider the plan not appropriate for the location or area aesthetics.

This second project would need its own access which is planned to come off Butternut Lane. Butternut Lane will have to accommodate large trucks on the road and over a small bridge. Residents are concerned about the capacity of the bridge.

Currently there is a 45 day comment period and neighbors encourage the Select Board to file a motion to intervene with the Public Service Board to be heard. They are asking the support of the Board and recommend hiring an attorney for counsel and representation

This is considered to be an industrial project in a residential zone.

Charlie Wilson spoke about the renewable energy participation in Taftsville over the last 200 years and his concern for the Taftsville Cemetery as part of the historic district is that this project will be devastating.

Act 248, which is guiding this project, has turned the preservation aspect of Vermont upside down.

The people of Taftsville are organizing a meeting next week and legislators representing Woodstock are invited to attend. The neighbors are requesting party status to the development, so abutters will be allowed to weigh in through an attorney.

This open land provides two cuts of hay each year.

The developer, Tom Garden, has three applications currently before the public service board and this is small and possibly the least important to him. He has not purchased property yet, however it is under contract.

The town can only communicate with the developer and provide copies of correspondence to the public service board. Mr. Gould made a motion to sign a letter drafted by Mr. Swanson. This motion was later withdrawn.

Based on the discussion this evening, Mr. Swanson will revise his letter and call the Board together for a meeting for further review and possibly signing the letter.

The Board agrees representation to the public service board would require someone well versed in this type of work who has already had experience with the issue. Mr. Swanson will attempt to consult with an individual who may have had this type of experience and the Board can consider any possibilities for success.

E. Review Bids for Roadside Mowing

Two proposals were received for roadside mowing. One significantly lower than the other.

On a motion of Mr. Gould, second Mr. Holt, the Select Board voted to accept the proposal for roadside mowing submitted by Bruce Orchitt. Motion approved.

VI. BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

A. Manhole Cover Replacements and Repairs

Mr. Swanson reported that deterioration of several manholes (particularly those along Route 4) is significant and finding a contractor to do repairs has presented a challenge. Ten contractors were invited to a pre bid conference, not one was present. Mr. Swanson presented photos of the deteriorated manholes.

Mr. Swanson contacted Twin State Utilities Construction, working on a project locally for another business. This organization has previously done work for the Town as well. A proposal was submitted. Green Mountain Pipeline will provide the cement liner for these manholes.

On a motion of Mr. Holt, second Mr. Doten, the Select Board voted to enter into contract with Twin State Utilities Corporation to reconstruct man holes for $20,966.12 with Green Mountain Pipeline installing the cement liners. Motion approved.

B. Review Application for Increase in Sewer Use

Jill Thomas has purchased 73 South Street, is renovating it and would like to reconfigure the rooms to add a third bedroom to the home. This is an increase of one bedroom. An application has been submitted and the appropriate fee has been paid.

C. Review Application for Sewer Connection – Safford Common

Saffford Common has submitted an application to connect the development to the municipal sewer system, for a total of 48 bedrooms. An application has been submitted and the appropriate fee has been paid.

On a motion of Mr. Gould, second Mr. Holt the Select Board voted to approve both applications for increase in use at 73 South Street and connection of Safford Common for 48 bedrooms. Motion approved.

D. Review Bids for Truck Purchase

Ted Green Ford submitted the only proposal for an F-450 vehicle for the Sewer Department.

Trade in is a truck transferred to the sewer department from the highway department a few years ago.

On a motion of Mr. Doten, second Mr. Holt the Select Board voted to accept the proposal from Ted Green Ford for an F-350 truck for the Sewer Department. The V-8 engine is recommended if it is available. Motion approved.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2015 were approved on a motion of Mr. Doten, second Mr. Holt. Motion approved.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Alan Beebe spoke about purchase of an ambulance which will be made this summer.

Specifications for a new ambulance were reviewed from two providers, Osage and Specialty Vehicles.

Following discussion and on the recommendation of Alan Beebe, Ambulance Director, Mr. Holt made a motion to purchase, Cromwell Ambulance from Osage, with the V-8 engine if abailable. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. Motion approved.

IX. REVIEW EXPENSE WARRANTS

Expense warrants were reviewed and signed by the Select Board.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion of Mr. Holt, second Mr. Gould the Select Board voted to adjourn the meeting following signing of the Expense Warrants. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.22