

**Town of Woodstock Vermont**  
**Select Board**  
**Meeting**  
**February 16, 2021**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Zoom**  
**Agenda**

**Draft minutes are subject to approval.**

**Present:** Chair Mary Riley, Jill Davies, L. D. Sutherland, Keri Cole, William Kerbin, Nikki Nourse, Ray Bourgeois, Patrick Fultz, Greg McKenney, Karim Houry, Beth Finlayson, Joseph Swanson, Ken Vandenburg, Beth Fish

**A. Call to Order**

1. Chair Riley called to order the Select Board meeting of February 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

**B. Additions to and Deletions from the Posted Agenda**

1. Deletion – Signing authority for David Green.
2. Additions
  - a. Faulkner Park update
  - b. Change of date for the March meeting
  - c. Sewer rate

**C. Manager Report**

**1. General Report**

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that he and Mr. Leitner attended a presentation last week about downtown recognition program. This could offer potential grant opportunities for downtown.

**2. Financial Report**

- a. Ms. Davies asked about the revenue line titled miscellaneous.
  1. Mr. Kerbin stated that that amount includes delinquent amounts. They do not know how much they will get in.

**D. Permits**

**1. Liquor license permit – Family Village Butcher Inc – The Village Butcher**

- a. Chair Riley stated that this is at 18 Elm Street, from a gentleman named Alex who is taking over the Village Butcher Shop.

## 2. Liquor license renewals

- a. F.H. Gillingham & Sons Inc
- b. Mangalista LLC
- c. R.L. Vallee Inc – Maplefields
- d. Melaza LLC

**Motion:** by Ms. Cole to approve the liquor license permit for Family Village Butcher Inc and the liquor license renewals for F.H. Gillingham & Sons Inc, Mangalista LLC, R.L. Vallee Inc, and Melaza LLC.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Davies.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 4-0-0, passed

## 3. Overweight Truck Permits

- a. CSE Inc
- b. Bourne's Inc & Bourne's Propane – Bourne's Energy
- c. ABLE Waste Management Inc

**Motion:** by Ms. Cole to approve the overweight truck permits for CSE Inc, Bourne's Inc & Bourne's Propane, and ABLE Waste Management Inc.

**Seconded:** Ms. Davies.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 4-0-0, passed.

## E. Old business

### 1. Speed ordinance – change to posted speed by College Hill Road

- a. Chair Riley stated that they had a discussion last week about this. This is to change the posted speed on College Hill Road.
- b. Sergeant Swanson stated that he has provided an updated ordinance to be reviewed and signed.

**Motion:** by Ms. Cole to approve the speed ordinance to change the posted speed on College Hill Road.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Davies.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 4-0-0, passed.

### 2. Loop Road project

- a. Chair Riley stated that they made a site visit in January.
- b. Mr. McKenney shared a presentation. Loop Road is in South Woodstock. They are proposing to realign about 2/10 of the road. The

Town would take over the new alignment. There are two other landowners on Loop Road. They would need to remove trees and some stone walls. Part of the existing road will be taken over as a driveway. The rest of it will turn into lawn. It will be a 12-foot road with 1 ½ foot shoulders on each side. The peak will be behind the garage. The hill that was discussed at the site visit is at a 13% grade.

- c. Mr. Vandenburg stated that he thinks the 13% grade is the best they can do. He would like the stone ditching on the roadside to not have the rip rap closer than six inches from the surface of the road. If it is too flush with the road, rainwater will erode inside the stone and the grader pulls it. The width of the road is satisfactory. He does not see any issues with anything presented.

**Motion:** by Mr. Sutherland to approve to Loop Road project as submitted.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Davies.

**Discussion:** Chair Riley stated that the Right of Way permits need to be completed for this project.

**Vote:** 4-0-0, passed.

### **3. Town Meeting discussion**

- a. Chair Riley stated that the Select Board will have an informational meeting on Saturday at 10:00 am and again on Monday at 6:00 pm. They have a schedule of presentations.
- b. Ms. Davies stated that the presentations should last an hour and a half. The length of the meeting will depend on the number of questions.

## **F. New business**

### **1. Cannabis dispensaries discussion**

- a. Chair Riley stated that last week the Trustees assembled a group that is going to research the cannabis topic. Ms. Cole will be on the committee to represent the Select Board. Cannabis will be available for sale next year.
- b. Ms. Eames stated that cannabis will be available for sale in October 2022. Towns need to opt in. Today the State talked about a bill S25 which would require all towns to vote on this by March 2022. This group was established to look at what this all means for Woodstock. The group was also formed to educate voters. Their first meeting is on

Thursday. There are a lot of things to consider. There are eight towns in Vermont that have opted to vote on it this year.

c. Mr. Houry stated that they have recruited some advisors, Kimberly Gilbert, Robbie Blish, and Charlie Kimbell

~~2. Signing authority for David Green in the absence of the Municipal Manager— Deleted.~~

**G. Other business**

1. Faulkner Park Update

a. Chair Riley stated that the Faulkner Park Committee's last meeting was on February 1<sup>st</sup>. There were two suggestions for consideration. One was for a nonprofit group to take over the management and work with a local group. This was not sanctioned as a feasible possibility. The other option was to refer to the trustee of the Trust to accept the original offer from the Trust to take over Faulkner Park. There is some misunderstanding. She is hoping that in the next few months they are able to clear up the misunderstanding and skepticism. The Select Board will review this and make a decision at a future meeting.

2. Change of date for the March meeting

a. Chair Riley stated that the Select Board needs to change the date of the March meeting date due to the Village Meeting.  
b. The reorganization meeting will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm.  
c. The regular meeting will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**H. Board of Sewer Commissioners**

**1. Sewer permit – 67 & 117 Safford Commons Way – Safford Real Estate**

a. Chair Riley stated that this permit is for two duplexes. It will be 480 gallons per day per building.

**Motion:** by Ms. Davies to approve the sewer permit for 67 & 117 Safford Commons Way as submitted by Safford Real Estate.

**Seconded:** by Mr. Sutherland.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 4-0-0, passed.

2. Sewer rate

a. Ms. Fish stated that this rate is for the old system. If you have a meter is is the reading from October 2019 to October 2020. The Town is down about 874,000-cubic feet from last year. This ups the rate. It will

be 11.93 for FY21. Last year for a single person the fee was \$483. This year it will be \$596.37. The water readings are from Woodstock Aqueduct. The Woodstock Inn as well as other lodging establishments were drastically down this year due to a lack of usage. This means there is a 20% increase.

b. Mr. Houry stated that he is concerned that the new main sewer plant could cost anywhere from \$8 million to \$18 million.

c. Ms. Fish stated that sewer bills will be due on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Motion:** by Ms. Davies to approve the sewer rate of 11.83 for FY21.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Cole.

**Discussion:** Mr. Houry stated that they do not want to have a town that does not have a functioning sewer system. It is a burden carried by 800 or so uses. He thinks they need to look at other options. Maybe they should have the State take over it.

Mr. Sutherland stated that the State probably would not take the sewer plant over. They would fine the Town severely.

Mr. Houry stated that they should start getting some legal advice.

Ms. Davies stated that engineers will do a study this summer to find out what the costs really are. The new sewer billing will start in July.

Ms. Fish stated that July is the target date. The water meters are owned by the Woodstock Aqueduct. They pay to have them read.

Ms. Davies stated that the intention of the new billing system will be to share things more equally between homes. People's bills will not fluctuate so much.

Mr. Sutherland noted that the initial sewer bond was paid by all taxpayers. The whole Town, not just sewer users paid for the original bond.

Mr. Houry stated that this is encouraging news.

**Vote:** 4-0-0, passed.

**I. Citizen comments – none**

**J. Approval of minutes**

**1. 1.14.21 Select Board Special Meeting minutes**

**2. 1.19.21 Select Board Meeting minutes**

**3. 1.21.21 Select Board Special Meeting minutes**

**Motion:** by Ms. Davies to approve the meeting minutes for January 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> as submitted with the corrections that were emailed to Ms. Nourse.

**Seconded:** by Mr. Sutherland.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 4-0-0, passed.

**K. Adjournment**

**Motion:** by Ms. Davies to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 pm.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Cole.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 4-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Nikki Nourse*

*Mary Y Riley*

Mary Y Riley (Mar 26, 2021 10:22 EDT)

*Raymond Bourgeois*

Raymond Bourgeois (Mar 26, 2021 18:53 EDT)

*Keri P. Cole*

Keri P. Cole (Mar 27, 2021 15:48 EDT)

*Joe Swanson*

Joe Swanson (Mar 28, 2021 10:18 EDT)