

Town of Waltham
2053 Maple Street
Waltham, VT 05491

Selectboard Minutes 1-8-2024

Members Present: Andrew Martin, Brent Newton-Chair and Rhonda Williams

Others Present: Chris LaPete, Linda Devino, Cookie Steponaitis, Brian Goodyear and Timothy Clark

Brent Newton called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Chris LaPete commented on the past months weather related work. The recent snow storm being the first of the season, he saw many driveways where the snow was being plowed into and or across the roads. He suggested we send out letters again letting folks know of the State's rules against it. The recent rains have caused a number of issues. One of the biggest being the beaver pond's dry hydrant and culverts. Andrew noted the dry hydrant is the town's responsibility. There was discussion on how best to address this.

Brent moved to approve the December minutes as written. Rhonda 2nd and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Brian Goodyear from Vergennes Area Rescue Squad discussed the needs of EMS and costs. Payroll being the biggest expense. He said their budget will need an increase from the current price of \$8 per capita to \$15. This will cause a significant increase in our budget. VARS is working to adjust the numbers billed to towns with a utilization premium. Brian suggested a quarterly visit to Selectboard meetings but Brent felt just a narrative report to the Town Clerk would suffice.

Tim Clark expressed his concern with the current culvert policy. He feels that there was not ample notice given to the residents about this. It was explained to him that the policy was put in place to keep taxes lower. He feels replacing a culvert out of pocket could be the same as doubling a tax bill. He also suggested a couple of ways to better notify all residents of changes. The Board asked him to please bring these topics up at Town Meeting.

The speed ordinance was reviewed. Brent noted that for enforcement purposes the speed limits for 7 & 17 need to be listed separately. Andrew moved to adopt the ordinance with this clarification. Rhonda 2nd and the changes to the Traffic Ordinance was unanimously agreed upon.

Town Meeting: The Selectboard reviewed the documents Cookie had prepared for review. There were suggestions of additions and changes no formal decisions were made.

Financials and Pay orders were then reviewed. Rhonda moved to approve the \$ 19,280.52. Brent 2nd and the amount was unanimously approved.

Old and new business was discussed. David Dunn contacted Waltham in reference to a proposed manure digester to be located on Plank Road in New Haven. It was decided to invite him to our April Selectboard meeting for more clarification.

The March Selectboard meeting will be held on March 4th at 5:00pm prior to the annual Town Meeting which will be held at 7:00pm.

With there being no other business to discuss, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Devino

Clerk / Treasurer