

Select Board Meeting  
July 6, 2022

6:04 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

Select Board members present: Neil Oleson, Mike Bedini, Terry I. Green

Select board members absent: none

Others present: Vicki Winchell, Joan Lewis, Cindy Bosley, Al Bedini, Tim Bartlett, Janet Bartlett, Larry Cote, Roger Randall, Heidi Dugal, Jake White, Dan Dobbert Sr., Dan Dobbert, Jr., Brad Furlon, Dave Fierro, Jamie Rathbun

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 22, 2022 Selectboard meeting. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the Executive Session minutes from the June 22, 2022 Selectboard meeting. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Cindy Bosley reported to the board a conversation with Kevin Poirot regarding internet service. Kevin was able to speak with someone from Whip City Electric and they would like to give a presentation to the board at an upcoming meeting. The board has requested they attend the August 17, 2022 meeting.
  - Dan Dobbert Jr. and Sr. appeared at the request of the board regarding their business Dobbert Recycling. Neil informed them of the boards concerns, which are taking in full vehicles, which goes against their license and the type of gate used on the property because it does not close up good. Neil asked if they were accepting full size autos and Dan replied no. Mike felt he is lying as himself as well as others have reported seeing entire cars being brought to the business, not just pieces. Terry agreed she had seen it and Al Bedini also commented to witnessing full vehicles being brought there. Dan maintains they are not receiving whole cars and has asked the board for clarification as to what a "whole car" is. Tim Bartlett asked what is considered a whole car, with the engine, transmission. Neil responded he believed so; engine, transmission, rear end, not necessarily tires.
  - Mike also asked about their fencing as the board gave them 6 months to repair/replace the fence that was there. Dan feels the fence that they created was acceptable to what the board requested, poles in the ground and something at the bottom of the fence so you cannot see through. Mike suggested a full size regular fence. Dan did not feel that was a safe option when trying to open/close it with high winds but feels what was done to repair the fence should be acceptable.
  - Dan has requested a copy of the minutes from the meeting this was previously discussed at. Terry informed him the minutes were posted on the website and if not, they could provide a copy. She was able to discover it was discussed during the December 8, 2021 meeting and requested Joan make a copy for him.
  - Dan also requested to know what his license says. Neil responded there were two stipulations it had: No complete cars and also the fence/gate. Dan responded you are right, he does not remember a gate, only fencing discussion, not the actual gate.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Heidi asked if this is going to be the beginning of a crackdown all around town of acceptable yards because there is stuff going on town that is pretty outrageous. The board replied yes.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to pull the license of Dobbert Recycling until they do what the board has asked them too. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Neil stated the license is rescinded because they did not follow what was requested. Dan replied he is still sitting here asking what a complete car is, where the fence has to be and what type of opening does he have to have. Neil responded a complete car is a car with a motor, transmission, it does not have to have wheels. Dan asked which one did he buy that was like that. Neil replied people have said you have taken them in. Al responded with a date and time of a vehicle that went by his home. Neil responded if it is a full car you should get the title with it and asked if he did. Dan responded they do not have any titles because they did not take full cars.
- Dan asked Mike to tell him again where the fence is supposed to be and what it is supposed to look like. Mike suggested he would come over and show him. Brad interjected reminding the board it should be in writing. Al asked why it is not the same as what the previously board of selectmen recommended with a fence and gates as it had worked. Why didn't they repair to be the same again? Neil added he knows the gates broke. You have not put them back up. Dan asked what time someone would come over. Terry also recommended putting it in writing and having the lawyer send it to them. Mike and Neil agreed to go to Dobberts Recycling the next morning and meet shortly have 10 am. Dan asked Neil for a definition of a complete car. Neil stated he did not know if he could describe it but if it is a complete car, even without a motor, you should be getting a title with it. If you are taking them without the title that is another thing you should not be doing. Pieces and parts as they said before. Pretty much a whole auto without a motor in it is still a complete car.
- Joan found a copy of the minutes. Neil read the notes in them aloud saying it stated have the fence fixed by July and no complete junk cars. Dan feels they went above and beyond.
- Heidi clarified her question from earlier stating just so it does not appear like harassment she did ask that question to see if it was just a target. Neil clarified his is a business others are not. Heidi responded she knew but there are others and that was her question if they are going to start clamping down on people.
- Board discussed a change order for doors for the school building project.
  - Terry I. Green made a motion to approve change order request 102 and request 103 for the school building project. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to appoint Ron Bosley as the Moderator for FY 2023. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Mike discussed a town resident, who preferred to remain anonymous, works for the railroad. The resident gave a website that complaints regarding the railroad can be filed on. [RRSWebinquiries@dot.gov](mailto:RRSWebinquiries@dot.gov). Although all complaints are filed on here, they are routed differently so it could need to be entered a few times. Heidi mentioned last summer John Barrett came to the school with someone (she was unsure where the other person who investigated was from). John Barrett's office had put pressure on this office to come out to investigate. This man said that they really could not do anything about it and tried to explain to John Barrett about the fans that they replaced when the tunnel collapsed. They could not get what they use to use (when the trains came through the tunnel the fans came on and off). All they could get is what the vendor had which is fans that stay on 24/7. The others are backordered for years. Brad recommended putting the complaint in on the website, print it and submitting it to John Barrett's office as well.
- Terry had the following updates:
  - She, Mike, and Jamie met with Recap Solutions (RS) regarding the multipurpose building. An EMD plan is needed to submit to RS. The conversations were promising. RS stating 75/25% on the project with the town owing 25% however there are other possibilities of grants to cover the 25%. It will take about a year to get everything in process if the board approves for her to move forward. There is no charge for RS services. There are different plans/grants in place that were discussed. The first step is to explain the need of this building for the town. Mike asked what would happen if RS did not feel we needed this type of building. Terry replied they will be giving a report but felt optimistic as the FD is the evacuation area for the school, you cannot drink the water there, the facilities aren't usable by a large amount of people, etc. She was instructed to reach out to the congressional office and they will help write our need. RS felt there is a good chance of getting these grants as our need is there. Terry has requested the board's approval to move forward as there is a large amount of work involved with this as the first application alone is about 60-100 pages. She also does not want to waste anyone's time but this project is valuable. It is a long process and needs to be written exact. Roger asked if there are any thoughts as to where to put this project? Neil responded it would go on the property below the school and it has already been perked.
    - Mike Bedini made a motion for Terry I. Green to move forward for grants for a multipurpose building. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
  - Terry informed the board they will be getting a resignation from Misa, the Library Director.
  - Met with Jamie to guide and help with the Treasurer/Collector work.
    - They have been trying to get Jamie's bond. The bonding company wants the audit and the management report. In the 2016 audit the Management Report has gone missing. Terry has been in contact with Tom Scanlon's office and he is on vacation until July 11<sup>th</sup>. They are doing their best to try to find the missing report for Terry so Jamie can get bonded. Technically Jamie should not be touching money as she is not bonded.
    - Worked with Jamie on joining the MCTA and discussed budgets.
    - Working with Jamie and NBSU regarding Medicaid reporting information that was needed in March.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Helped Joan get onto her computer last week. Showed her how to use the mousepad part.
- Talked about what the town's EIN number when applying for a town credit card.
- Showed Joan how to copy/paste in various applications to make things easier.
- Discussed with Joan how to find receipts/revenue and read the report as they needed particular information for applying for the credit card.
- Discussed the town website and making changes to correct the errors. Some have been changed but there are a few more that need to be fixed.

Dave Fierro, Accounting Officer:

- Dave attended to discuss budget and account details with the board. He has tied out the FY 2023 budget from the Annual Town Meeting. He has set the accounts up utilizing the standard setup to what the state looks at vs the format that had been used in the past. It is a more uniform accounting system that most towns use and works easier with the state. The newly updated account codes were reviewed with the board. He will hand out updated budget information monthly or after each warrant.
- The Overlay Account was discussed. A brief explanation was given as to what exactly that account is and used for. It was discovered it had been miscalculated for the past couple of years. A handout was given to the board and explained as follows:
  - Page 1 is the balance sheet that is submitted yearly to the Department of Revenue (DOR). This is what the free cash is generated from. The surplus revenue line is the net result of operating (revenue minus expenses). Free cash is what the state certifies. There is a formula used at the DOR. They will take any turn back of expenses, plus any revenue that is over budget and they come up with a calculation of what the free cash figure is. It looks like \$350,000 in June 2021 but the surplus revenue was \$985,000. Free cash will be only certified up to what the state can prove. In this case it was \$350,000 out of the \$985,000. Dave spoke with Matt Andre, the towns DOR representative, and he stated for the last couple years he has had a hard time proving the free cash here because the surplus revenue would come out higher than what he could prove for free cash. The state will always certify the lower number, never higher because that means something occurred or did not get booked correctly. Someone was asking previously about the Overlay. It was thought to have been calculated to have about \$800,000 but page 1 of the balance sheet shows \$310,000. Dave traced it back to what happened for the past couple of years. The numbers are hard keyed into the system so errors can happen. In 2018 it was ok. In 2019 the Overlay beginning balance was entered as \$10,890. That figure should have been the ending balance from 2018 and it was keyed wrong. It was understated by approximately \$30,000. In 2020 the beginning number (which should have been carried forward from 2019) was understated by \$292,000. It is not that money is missing; it is sitting in the Surplus Revenue account which is why it looks so high. In 2021 the amount that was entered was also done in error so there was another understatement in that figure. The total understated figures were approximately \$500,000. Terry clarified to Neil that even though they were previously told free cash had been certified for over \$800,000 last year the state never certified that. They only certified \$350,000 because that is all the state could prove. Discussions were had regarding a

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Dave Fierro, Accounting Officer (continued):

- previous meeting with Rick, Town Assessor in Rowe as to how much he thought Florida had as the towns are working jointly on the power company negotiations. Neil felt Rick stated there was more and Terry clarified Rick discussed it being short about \$500,000. Neil felt this should be discussed during executive session. Terry disagreed that this was ok to discuss during regular session as it does not involve any negotiation information. Dave continued that the money is not missing, only sitting in the wrong area and he can correct it this year. An audience member asked how it would be corrected. Dave replied it is done as a journal entry. Janet brought up how this is a good reason to have a town accountant. Neil added there was supposed to be an audit done in May however Scanlon felt doing one after FY22 was over would be a better option. Dave recommended the assessors balance quarterly.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Dump permits are in. Sixty-five sold to date. Suggested to residents they place them on the driver's side window so Roger can see them easier.
  - Mike asked what happened to having the red gate open so people can drive around. Jim didn't think it should be done on Wednesdays when the guys are working but they can do it on Saturdays to ease traffic congestion.
  - Heidi asked if they will get more recycling bins. Neil or Joan will check with NBSW.
  - Joan commented that several residents questioned a large VT licensed plate truck using the dump. Jamie informed all that the VT plate is a town resident. Joan said she explained this and added that they were complaining about people they see on Wednesdays and Saturdays that have a truck load and a trailer load. Neil added some people do make more trash. Jamie added if they are a registered, stickered, town resident they should be ok and that you cannot tell them not to pick up other people's trash as people do bring it to the dump for some who can not get out. The board agreed that is not a problem and better they use the dump than dumping illegally on properties.
  - Stickers are \$10 for the first vehicle and \$5 for each additional vehicle.
  - Mattress disposal rule was pushed through the state and they are recanting.
- Working with BOH with some of their issues. Complaint letters have been going out and people have responded within two days of letters going out.
  - Neil received a letter from Jim Obrien resigning from the BOH, effective today, July 6, 2022.
- Several calls received regarding a property on Central Shaft Road that is .25 acre for sale. People want to just use it for camping and Joan is wondering how she should respond. Neil replied they can not put a camper on it and suggested she refer any calls to the BOH.

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Jim White, Highway Dept. Supervisor:

- West Oil has said they will not be doing fixed prices this winter. The heating fuel goes by Albany market price plus \$0.43 per gallon on the day of delivery. The diesel will be by the Albany market price as well plus \$0.385 per gallon. Brad Furlon gave a summary of market expectations and suggested Jim keep an eye on the pricing and stock up when it is lower. He also suggested the possibility of adding an extra tank to receive deliveries for stocking up as the cost to purchase and install an extra tank may be less in the end in order to stock up when the fuel costs are lower. Jim will look into it.
- Tony Arigoni submitted an invoice to purchase materials for the project. Payment is needed as soon as possible to purchase the materials for the project. He will start working on it on July 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Mowing cemeteries
- Patching Whitcomb Hill and will work on River Road next
- Bringing the roller back by July 21, 2022.
- Started putting stone under Savoy Bridge. It should take about a week to complete.
- Replacing the culvert on Tilda Hill Road and working on getting to North County Road.
- Headstone work in the cemetery.
- Mike complemented Jim that things are looking good.

Public Comment:

- Heidi submitted her resignation for the Library Trustee position, effective immediately.
  - Terry I. Green made a motion to accept Heidi Dugal's resignation from the Library as a Trustee. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Al asked if Joan can work 2 Saturday's and take Monday off to give out the compactor stickers. The board agreed with this. Al will let Roger know.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

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Neil Oleson, Chair

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Michael Bedini

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Terry I. Green

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JWS

        
MLB

        
TIG