**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM 01/13/2015**

**PRESENT:** Robert Creller (Chairman), Alton Bruso arrived at 7:05pm, Guy Palardy, Steve Aubin arrived at 7:05pm, Bernard Savage, Donna Bohannon

**GUESTS:** Terry Tatro, Linda Gotshall, Monica Greene, Bethany Remmers (Northwest Regional Planning Commission), Franco Rossi (CAI Technologies), Mike Beaulieu (Vermont Electric Coop.), Dave Hallquist (Vermont Electric Coop.), Patty Savage, Bernard (Bing) Pero, Tom Hansen, Lynne Hansen, Amy Erno Mashtare, George Boutah, Leeann Porto

**7PM - OPEN MEETING:** Meeting called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Robert Creller

**ADJUST THE AGENDA (if needed):** Due to thenumber of new items on the agenda and the number of visitors, approval and signing of invoices and weight slips will be moved to the end of the agenda.

1. **APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEETING MINUTES:**

* 12/23/2014 SELECTBOARD MEETING –
  + *Guy Palardy motioned to accept the minutes from 12/23/2014 as written – seconded by Bernard Savage – all in favor motion carried -*
* 01/09/2015 BUDGET MEETING -
  + *Guy Palardy motioned to accept the minutes from 01/09/2015 budget meeting as written – seconded by Bernard Savage – all in favor motion carried -*

1. **APPROVE INVOICES AND / OR OVERWEIGHT PERMITS:**

* Moved to the end of agenda

1. **NEW BUSINESS / MISCELLANEOUS:**

* **Vermont Electric Coop –** Solar Farm – Questions and answers –
  + Dave Hallquist and Mike Beaulieu attended the meeting to answer any questions that the Town may have about the solar project that is to be on the lot by Dump Road. The project is 240 panels that will cover roughly seven acres of the 12 acre site. With this project, V.E.C. is attempting to show the public that solar is such an affordable choice that it no longer needs to be subsidized. It is less expensive for home owners to buy shares in the project than it is to put solar panels on their roofs.
  + Residents will have the opportunity to purchase shares in the project which will effectively lower their utility bill. There was more discussion about the cost savings vs. buy in price and how it compares to power that is purchased currently. It is the least expensive form of power when the sun is shining and it is producing power.
  + Guy Palardy asked what the projected life span of the panels is. Dave Hallquist replied that they degrade a half percent per year so the expected life expectancy of a panel is approximately 28 years.
  + Bobby Creller stated that solar panels are fairly inexpensive right now and stated that they will most likely continue to decrease in cost. He then asked what the panels cost at this time. Dave replied that they cost .72¢ per watt.
  + Steve Aubin asked if fewer homes will be allowed to install rooftop solar panels when this project is completed. Dave replied that yes there is a cap on that now and once the project is complete there will be fewer rooftop panels allowed.
  + Tom Hansen asked what the project would look like from route 78. Mike Beaulieu replied that there will be an agricultural type fence around the perimeter and that the panels themselves will be somewhat visible from the road.
  + Guy Palardy asked what the impact on agricultural land is. Dave replied that this is a good choice for agricultural land that is not being used but may be wanted in the future as the panels and the posts that the panel are on are easily removed with little disruption to the land.
  + Steve Aubin asked how the land will be maintained. Dave replied that low growing grasses will be planted around the panels and it will be mowed and maintained regularly.
  + Terry Tatro asked what the expected completion date is. Dave replied that they expect to have the project completed by September 1st of this year.
  + Terry also asked how long it takes before a home owner starts to see a return on the investment. Dave replied that it takes approximately 13-14 years with rooftop system and buying in to this project will depend on how much you invest.
  + This is net metering and the electric company does not buy back any excess power that is made from your share. The company sets it up so that a home is only going to be receiving 80% of their projected power from this source so there is not an abundance of power not being used.
* **Bethany Remmers –** Streetscape update –
  + There are still three properties that have not been contacted about this project and what impact it will have on them. Terry Tatro, Monica Greene and Bethany Remmers have been talking about different strategies they can use to get the information to these last three property owners.
  + Bethany informed the Board that the Town will still need to match 20% of the expenses. Half of that 20% match can be in-kind, the other half cash. There was some discussion about Bernard (Bing) Pero acting as the “Clerk of the Works” and the value of that being used toward the in-kind match. It was also discussed that the Highway department would do some or all of the site prep work and removal of the fill to be used toward the in-kind match. Bing stated that he has the qualifications and the ability to act as Clerk of the Works.
  + Bethany informed the Board that if they don’t want to have to answer to the State as to where the fill will go that they may want to consider a different source to haul it away. Alton Bruso and Bing agreed that it would be beneficial to the Town to keep the fill in Town and that they have a site in mind for the fill to go. They stated that they need fill behind the new garage, Bethany asked if that location was out of the flood plain and they stated that yes it was. This would make it possible for that service to be used toward the in-kind.
  + Bethany will check with the project manager to figure out what the next steps in this project are and she will find out how the Clerk of the Works is approved and what the value of that service is.
  + Monica asked what will happen if the Town maxes out the in-kind payment. Bethany asked if the Town has enough discretionary funds to cover any extra match that would be needed. The Board all agreed that yes there is enough money to cover any extra.
  + Bethany was asked how close to getting the right of way agreements finalized. She replied that it will hopefully be mid-February. Monica commented that they have two locals and a Bishop to approach. The Bishop was not there until recently and that the other properties have changed hands.
  + Total cost for this project is $271,250.00
* **Franco Rossi – CAI-Technologies –** Tax mapping system –
  + Franco Rossi introduced himself and explained to the Board a little about his company. CAI is a company out of Littleton, New Hampshire that services approximately 400 municipalities of which 26 are in Vermont.
  + Franco informed the Board that what the Town currently has for a tax mapping system is antiquated but that the information in the system is good information. The data that we have is good but would be better presented with an updated (updatable) system.
  + This system allows for many different layers to be included for each parcel. Deeds and mortgages can be attached to the map.
  + The types of layers that can be added to this are topographic map, FEMA flood plain map, boundary lines, etc. An abutters list can be retrieved from this system and notes can be added to parcels.
  + Alton Bruso asked what do they do if a parcel is not surveyed or the boundary lines change due to a sale or property split. Franco replied that the map will be updated as new information is taken in.
  + The data on the Website is updated by us. The only thing that we don’t update is the boundary lines themselves.
  + VCGI (Vermont Center for Geographical Information) data can be accessed through this system.
  + USGS data can be included in the mapping of the Town.
  + Alton asked what the cost of this system was.
  + Franco explained that it would cost $1800 per year for the upkeep of the web service – typical startup for a town our size based on the data that is already on the computer would be roughly $2500 and updating the maps would cost approximately $1500 per year depending on how many updates there are annually.
  + Franco will send a link that will allow access to towns that are on the system to the Clerk who will forward it to the Selectmen. He will also send a summary letter to the Clerk who will forward that to the Selectmen as well.
  + Clerk will contact Franco if the Board decides to purchase the system.
* **Tom and Lynne Hansen –** 
  + Concerns about substation – Letter from Tom and Lynne given to Board members -
    - Tom and Lynne were concerned about the impact that the new substation was going to have on their property and on them.
    - The substation is proposed to be built in front of their home that faces the lake and has a view of Mount Mansfield. They are concerned that their view will be obscured by the substation and also that the placement of the substation will decrease the value of their property.
    - They were also concerned that Vermont Electric Coop. did impact studies but all the studies were from the perspective of Route #2 travelers and from the perspective from Wagoner Point and North Hero. They did not take in to consideration how it would affect them in their home.
    - They are concerned that the noise from the construction of the station and the noise that will be emitted from the station once up and running will disrupt the wildlife in the area.
    - They were also upset that they were not notified sooner about the project. The Town was informed in July and they were not informed until October 31st. This did not give them very much time to come up with a plan to become interveners.
    - There was some discussion about the Board intervening on behalf of the Hansen’s but all parties concerned were in agreement that it would be a costly attempt and would most likely not yield the results that they would like.
* **Topics of concern –**
  + Two people at all times at the Transfer Station –
    - There generally are two people there at all times – the only time there is not is when there is extenuating circumstances and they will try to make sure it doesn’t happen often.
  + Town Clerk to be informed of pertinent information –
    - Clerk requested that the office staff be made aware of events so calls and questions can be fielded properly. Some discussion took place about this request and Alton Bruso said that “we can make this work”
* **Linda Gotshall** –
  + Clarification needed on Highway Foreman benefits
    - There was a misunderstanding about the medical benefits the highway Foreman receives. There was some discussion about this, the Foreman presented a paper that he had been given at the time of hire – the confusion was cleared up.

**4. TABLED TOPICS AND / OR WAITING RESULTS:**

* **Amy Erno Mashtare – Several topics -**
* **The roof of the office** – *Update –* Roof is completed *–Clerk to remove from agenda*
  + **New equipment at the Transfer Station –** *Update from Steve Aubin –*
    - The 65 yard dumpster is in place – Doug Medor has agreed to store the remaining equipment until spring –
    - Linda Gotshall wanted to know what category to list the payments under and it was agreed that they should be categorized under “equipment”

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Work needed at the Library – (Window replacement)**
  + Quote from Advantage Property Services – $1,584.00 Total -
    - $759.00 – materials to include 5 new windows, trim, insulation, fasteners and paint
    - $750.00 – labor – includes removal and replacement of windows, trim, insulating, and painting
    - $75.00 – Disposal of old windows and debris
      * Alton Bruso motioned to accept the quote of $1,584.00 for the work needed and to proceed with the work – seconded by Steve Aubin – all in favor – motion carried – *Clerk to inform Jim Honsinger that the Board accepted his bid*
* **Ancient Road Discontinuation by 2015 –** 
  + Clerk presented information to the Board pertaining to the need for any changes to the Town map –
    - Alton and Bing have both reviewed the information and they agree that there are not any changes needed

**6. VISITOR INPUT:**

* **Amy Erno Mashtare –** 
  + Amy informed the Board that Neil Poquette had done an estimate for several different sized buildings. The purpose of the estimate is to give the Board an idea of how much they will need to put in the budget for the next fiscal year for this project. Each of the different sizes include a 6” slab, steel panels and clear panels in the roof. This will still need to be put out to bid in the spring.
  + A 60 yard dumpster still needs to be purchased for metal
  + On January 28th VLCT is holding a Municipal Solid Waste Management workshop that Amy would like to attend – the Board was in agreement that Amy should attend –
  + Universal recycling will be mandatory after July 1st,2015 and there will be more needs at the Transfer Station to be compliant
  + Brush cannot be burned at the Transfer Station – it now needs to be chipped – a chipper will need to be purchased or brush will not be able to be accepted

**7. ADJOURN –** *At 9:40PM Guy Palardy motioned to adjourn – seconded by Alton Bruso – all in favor – motion carried – meeting adjourned*

Respectfully submitted, Donna L. Bohannon Alburgh Town Clerk

/dlb

**Please note the above minutes HAVE NOT been approved. Approval or changes to the minutes will be addressed at the next meeting, currently scheduled for January 27th, 2015.**