**MINUTES FROM 01/27/2015**

**BUDGET MEETING &**

**SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Robert Creller (Chairman), Alton Bruso, Guy Palardy, Steve Aubin, Bernard Savage, Donna Bohannon, Linda Gotshall

**GUESTS:** Barbara Baker, Corrine Russin, Terry Tatro, Bernard (Bing) Pero, Amy Erno Mashtare

**6:00pm – FINAL BUDGET MEETING:** Meeting called to order at 6:05pm by chairman, Robert Creller

**ADJUST THE AGENDA (if needed):** One adjustment needed *-* Scott Noel is requesting a refund of $164.43 from his property tax bill. It appeared that he had filed his Homestead Declaration late and was charged a late fee. Upon investigation and inquiring of the State of Vermont it was discovered that he filed his Homestead Declaration in a timely manner and should not have been penalized. The amount of $164.43 is the amount of the penalty and is the amount that he is requesting back. The State informed the Town that since the request came in after December 31st the Town would need to issue the refund as it was beyond the time frame that the State could do that. – The Board members all read the information and were in agreement that he was charged wrongfully for the penalty – *Bernard Savage motioned to refund Scott Noel $164.43 for the late penalty that was wrongfully charged – second by Guy Palardy – all in favor – motion carried – Treasurer to refund Mr. Noel*

* Clerk reported that there had been a late request for allocation of $500 from the Franklin / Grand Isle Bookmobile. The Board read the letter of request – Bernard Savage motioned to accept the request of a $500 allocation to the Franklin / Grand Isle Bookmobile – seconded by Steve Aubin – all in favor – motion carried – Bookmobile request added to list of allocations.
* Linda inquired about the amount of money that was going to need to be transferred from the General Fund into the Transfer Station Fund in order to cover expenses – there was some discussion about the new equipment that was purchased from Doug Medor and what it will cost to have the new equipment installed – there was also talk about changing the Transfer Station to a scale based fee – this led to a discussion about the cost of a scale – it was finally agreed that there would need to be $40,000 transferred into the Transfer Station Fund from the 2015/2016 General Fund budget.
* It was agreed that the request for $60,000 paving funds would not be listed as s separate line item but would be included in the 2015/2016 Highway Fund budget.

**At 7:15pm it was agreed that the budget meeting would be recessed until Thursday, January 29th to begin at 6:00pm**

**PRESENT:** Robert Creller (Chairman), Alton Bruso, Guy Palardy, Steve Aubin, Bernard Savage, Donna Bohannon

**GUESTS:** Terry Tatro, Bernard (Bing) Pero, Amy Erno Mashtare, Leeann Porto, Donna Larose

**7:00pm - OPEN MEETING:** Meeting called to orderat 7:15pm Chairman, Robert Creller

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

* 01/13/2015 SELECTBOARD MEETING – *Bernard Savage motioned to approve the minutes of 01/13/2015 Selectboard Meeting as written – seconded by Guy Palardy – all in favor – motion carried – minutes accepted*
* 01/15/2015 BUDGET MEETING – *Guy Palardy motioned to approve the minutes of 01/15/2015 Budget Meeting as written – seconded by Steve Aubin – all in favor – motion carried – minutes accepted*

1. **APPROVE INVOICES AND / OR OVERWEIGHT PERMITS:** All invoices approved and signed – Overweight permits and liquor licenses approved and signed

**3. NEW BUSINESS / MISCELLANEOUS:**

* Donna LaRose – Farmers Market in the Park
  + As President of the Islands in the Sun Senior Center, Donna Larose is requesting that the members of the Center be allowed to host a Farmers/Flea Market in the Town Park on Friday afternoons during the summer months. The proposal is that they will use the space every Friday afternoon from June – October (approximately 20 Fridays). The hours that they are requesting are 3:00pm to 7:00pm. There was some discussion about insurance and liability for such an event – Clerk was asked to check into that concern – Donna informed the Board that she has some contact with people that are vendors at other such events and is hopeful that they will be eager to rent tables. The group will advertise the event, establish a pattern for setting up tents and take responsibility for overseeing the operations of the event – *Bernard Savage motioned to allow the Islands in the Sun Senior Center use of the Town park for the purpose of conducting a Farmer / Flea Market throughout the summer, provided the Town insurance will cover the liability – seconded by Guy Palardy – all in favor – motion carried*
* Amy Erno Mashtare – Several items for discussion –
  + Amy will be away at a meeting on Wednesday, January 28th and the Transfer Station is expecting a load of recyclables to be picked up – she would like to know if someone can be there to work with Dan – Bernard Savage volunteered to go to the Transfer Station and work with Dan.
  + Amy is going to start sending some of the recyclables to Canusa - Hershman Recycling Company as they can pick up more often, they do not charge transportation fees and it doesn’t have to be a full load for them to pick up. She will be shipping paper and plastic with them and possibly cardboard eventually.
  + There was more discussion about changing the Transfer Station to a weight based fee as opposed to a per bag fee. Amy handed out comparison sheets showing the pricing by weight versus pricing by bag – the Board was in agreement that a weight based pricing system makes more sense than a per bag fee – Amy has done some comparison shopping for a scale and found one that will cost approximately $1,500 – there was discussion about the frequency in which it would need to be calibrated –Amy replied that it would need to be calibrated every year by the State – when the Board decides to adopt this change there will be an ordinance passed with and sixty day waiting period.
  + The Transfer Station takes in on average 400 pounds of clothes every three weeks – these clothes generally end up getting thrown in the trash compactor which costs the Town money. Amy has done some research in to clothing drop boxes through a company called Planet Ape and would like to ask local businesses if they would be willing to “host” a box. Planet Ape doesn’t allow the boxes to go in at Transfer Station because they get mistaken for trash boxes and the clothing gets ruined. Amy drafted a letter that she would like to send to some of the local businesses to try and elicit a response. She informed the Board that the business hosts the box and is not responsible for any upkeep or care of the box, Planet Ape will take care of everything pertaining to the box – the Town will receive .05¢ per pound of clothing and shoes collected – Amy is requesting permission from the Board to send a letter to several local businesses including Crossroads Mobile, The Islands in the Sun Senior Center and the Alburgh Public Library – *Guy Palardy motioned to approve the letter and give permission for Amy to send it to local businesses – seconded by Steve Aubin – all in favor – motion carried*
* Photo/Art submissions – Choose a picture for the cover of the Town Report
  + We received nine photo submissions from two residents for our Town Report cover – Connie Boutin submitted seven photos and Jacob Newman submitted two – all of the pictures were beautiful and the decision was not an easy one for the Board and guests to make but ultimately a lovely picture of some of our Veterans marching in our annual Fourth of July parade was decided on – thank-you to the winning submitter, Connie Boutin and also to Jacob Newman for sending in these wonderful photos

**4. TABLED TOPICS AND / OR WAITING RESULTS:** No tabled topics or waiting results

**5. OLD BUSINESS:** No old business to attend to

**6. VISITOR INPUT:** Acting on behalf of Linda Gotshall**,** Terry Tatrowanted to make the Board aware of an agreement that a past Selectboard had made with Richard Deso – proposed in 2005, Mr. Deso agreed to pay the Town $1,500 – per house that he established in a development off of Lake Street – part of the agreement also was that he would put in sidewalks throughout the development known as Champlain Estates Subdivision - Linda would like to research how many houses have been established in Champlain Estates Subdivision and compare that to how much had been paid to the Town for those homes – It was also mentioned that there have not been any sidewalks put in in that development – *Guy Palardy motioned that this matter be looked in to and contingent on the findings, a letter be sent to Mr. Deso with the information from the findings – he would like the letter to state the findings and that Mr. Deso be given thirty days to respond – seconded by Steve Aubin – all in favor motion carried*

**7. ADJOURN:** *At 8:05pm Alton Bruso motioned to adjourn – seconded by Bernard Savage – all in favor – motion carried – meeting adjourned*