**Town of Weston**

**P.O. Box 98**

**Weston, VT 05161**

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**October 24, 2023 at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Denis Benson, Lisa Yrsha

**Public:** Shawna Batogowski, Kim Seymour, Donald Hart, Jennifer Stromsten and Morgan Hart

**Zoom:** Annie Fuji’i, Charles Goodwin, Bradly Doyle

**Absent**: Jim Linville

1. **Review and Approve Minutes:** No changes to the minutes for October 10th, 2023. *Lisa Yrsha motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Annie Fuji’i and unanimously approved.*
2. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda**: None
3. **Public Comment**: There was an email requesting attendance of tonight’s meeting from Ryck Morales from SBA. We waited until 8:30pm and he did not attend.
4. **Brattleboro Development/SeVCA, Jennifer Stromsten:** Jennifer Stromsten is here tonight on behalf of BDCC and SeVCA. She explains that they are a private non-profit to help promote industrial and commercial growth in Southeastern Vermont which includes the Town of Weston. She says that they have helped 3 small businesses here in Weston with flood grants. She says that BDCC and SeVCA also offer training workshops and programs, such as learning how to become a member of a board in your community, grant writing workshops, Flood Recovery Assistance just to name a few. Annie Fuji’i mentions that she attended a Housing Workshop and thought that it was very informational and would be interested to attend more. Jennifer would like to thank the Town of Weston for their continued support.
5. **Cross Insurance/Open Enrollment Bradley Doyle**: Bradley Doyle joins the meeting via Zoom. He went over the choices that the Town of Weston has for small business coverage. The options with less than 5 employees being covered are Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont or MVP. BC/BS had a 12.76% increase in rates and MVP had a 17.33% rate increase. Bradley says that the rate increases are mostly due to the hospitals raising their rates as well and the price of prescription drugs. Annie Fuji’i would like to know if the merger with BC/BS of Vermont and Michigan will help with rates or give the Town more options. Bradley says that it was a merger that helps with combining the resources of both companies to helping with staffing and underwriting; we as consumers will most likely not see any change. *Charles Goodwin motioned to choose Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont for the Town’s full time employees, Annie Fuji’i seconded and it was unanimously approved.*
6. **SO#23 Payroll/SO#23 Vendors*:*** *Lisa Yrsha motioned to approve SO# 23 payroll for $8267.34 Charles Goodwin seconded and it was unanimously approved. Lisa Yrsha motioned to approve SO#23 Vendors for $15,324.06 Charles Goodwin seconded and it was unanimously approved. Lisa Yrsha motioned to approve SO #23B Flood for $106,923.79 Charles Goodwin seconded and it was unanimously approved.*
7. **New and Old Business:** Charles Goodwin presented a motion from Jim Linville. The motion came from a meeting on Oct. 20th 2023 about how the Windham Regional Commission could help Weston in its flood recovery and flood mitigation efforts. The motion is “*to authorize Windham Regional Commission to provide assistance to the Weston Community Association in evaluating the upstream and downstream impact of the dam during flooding events. Assistance to include seeking grants and other financing, engineering/hydraulic studies, alternative outcomes, and cost estimates*," Charles Goodwin suggested we table this motion until he reaches out to WRC and see if they do indeed need a formal motion or if they can proceed without one.

Annie Fuji’i said that she is looking into meeting up with vendors to help with the heating pumps for the Town Office and Solar Power for possible the roof of the Town garage. She is helping Chris Morrow and the ad hoc rouge energy group.

Shawna Batogowski brings paperwork from VLCT: Coverage Direction form –Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists. She questions if she should be the one to sign the form or if a Selectboard member. This signature is tabled until we find out what the coverage was for last year.

Kim Seymour has an error of omission for a parcel of land that was sold to the Fish and Wildlife-State of Vermont sent from Linda Sherman. Parcel: 060010.99 was sold on 12/21/2022 and should be tax exempt under State owned property. The tax is covered under the PILOT payment the Town has received. This correction requires the signatures of the selectboard.

Lisa Yrsha brought FEMA update. She stated that with the hard rain on Saturday have seen things that may still need more repair from the July Floods. Lisa Yrsha had done research into the ownership of the land and the building of the Weston Vermont Volunteer Fire Department. She states that the last deed that is on record says that the Building and Lands are owned by the Town of Weston. The Town will go ahead with claims to the VLCT accordingly.

 **Meeting Adjourned by Chair Denis Benson at 8:28pm.**

Dennis Benson, Chair Jim Linville, Vice Chair

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Annie Fuji’i, Secretary Lisa Yrsha

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Charles Goodwin

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