

**Town of Weston**  
**P.O. Box 98**  
**Weston, VT 05161**  
**Selectboard Meeting**

February 27<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7:30pm

**Present:** Denis Benson, Jim Linville, Annie Fuji'i and Lisa Yrsha

**Zoom:** GNAT-TV, Philp Donnelly, Cullen Angus, Ryan Hart, Jen Probst and David Griswold.

**Public:** Shawna Batogowski, Kim Seymour, Elizabeth Currie, Martina Barnes, Stacey Stratton, Kevin Gill, Will Perkins, Josh Allison, Jennifer Griswold, Brain Lundberg and Patricia Lundberg.

Denis Benson calls the meeting to order at 7:28pm

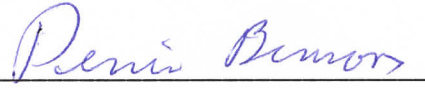
1. **Changes to the Agenda:** Start with the US Forest Service and then moved to the Fire Department.
2. **US Forest Service: Martina Barnes and Stacy Stratton.** Martina Barnes and Stacey Stratton came to update the Town on what the the Forest Service will be doing in the next few months and years. Martina started off by saying that the Forest Service will be doing some maintenance to the Greendale camping sites. She stated that they will be doing some apple tree release projects as well. She said that these consist of light pruning on the trees and then opening up the area around the apple trees to provide more sunlight. This also helps create habitats for animals. Stacey Stratton talked about the West River Timber Sale that is happening in Mount Holly and Weston. Mr. Stratton stated that they will be logging mostly in Mount Holly but they will come down into Weston and access Green Dale Road. He said that harvest hasn't started and is slated to start in around 5 years.
3. **Fire Department:** Josh Allison. Josh Allison the fire Chief and a plethora of fire department volunteers attended the meeting to ask why their ask of \$200,000 wasn't included in the budget for the 2024. Josh stated that the fire department would like the funds to begin a search for land to build a new fire department building. The July 2023

flood left the current fire department building in disrepair. The Weston Fire Department believes the best course of action would be to buy land not in the flood plain and build a new fire station. They would like to know from the Selectboard how to go about this. Denis Benson stated that they may want to wait until the town has a hydraulics study done on the bridge and dam. Depending on the information from these studies we may be able to change things so that we can get a 2–5-foot reduction in floodwater. Denis Benson also stated that at Town Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> the fire department may want to ask if anyone has land or know of land that may be for sale. He also said that the land would have to be on a road that does not get flooded, or washed out. A resource to use would be to ask the road crew if they know of a road that would be fine in a flood. Jim Linville addressed the fire department and said in order to get funding for a new fire station there are many steps that need to be taking before the purchase of land. There will need to be fundraising, grant applications, building plan designs, and a more detailed budget plan. Annie Fuji'i asked about the possibility of joining a neighboring town fire department and have Weston fire department as a satellite station. She asked how that would work and is it something the fire department is looking into. Josh Allison replied that yes, a lot of options have been talked about and that is one of them. Making one larger fire department sometimes means having a Fire Chief on staff and other members on payroll. Lisa Yrsha stated that we are so extremely lucky to have the fire department in our town and we will help in anyway to support them. The Selectboard stated that we will help out any way we can but the fire department will have to start doing some work with funding, budgeting, planning, site location etc. The Selectboard thanks the Weston Fire Department for all their hard work and help.

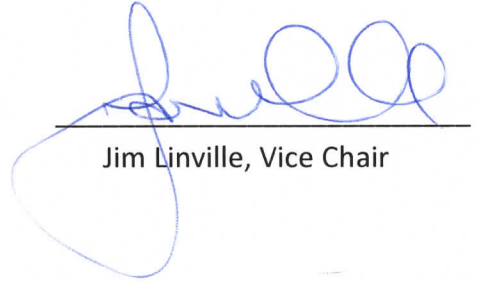
4. **Review and approve meeting minutes:** Jim Linville moved to approve meeting minutes for February 13<sup>th</sup> 2024, Lisa Yrsha seconded and it was unanimously approved.
5. **SO#4 Payroll and Vendors:** Jim Linville moved to approve SO #4 payroll for \$8,753.15 Lisa Yrsha seconded and it was unanimously approved. Lisa Yrsha moved to approve SO #4 Vendors for \$10,667.97 Jim Linville seconded and it is unanimously approved.
6. **New and Old Business:** Jim Linville moved to sign a letter of support for the Library Board. It's a letter of support for the library expansion that will be sent to the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund Grant. Lisa Yrsha seconded and it is unanimously approved. DVFiber needs a new form signed by Denis Benson stating that Rusty Davis will be the DVFiber representative for 2024. Jim Linville moved that Denis Benson sign the form. Lisa Yrsha seconded and it is unanimously approved. Annie Fuji'i said that she has gotten the last bid for the heat pumps for the Town Office and that she will continue to work on this project with Chris Morrow even though she will no longer be a Selectboard member. Lisa Yrsha gave a FEMA update and stated that she has been asked by FEMA to contact the Army Corps of Engineers about work that was done during the flood near rivers,

streams and brooks. Lisa stated she has not heard anything from the State about Chester Mountain Road or Landgrove Road.



Denis Benson adjourned the meeting at 8:48pm



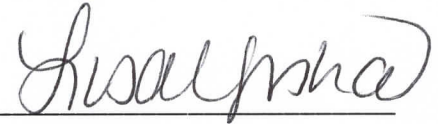
Denis Benson, Chair



Jim Linville, Vice Chair

Annie Fuji'l, Secertary



Lisa Yrsha