**TOWN OF WESTON**

**P.O. BOX 98**

**WESTON, VT 05161**

 **SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**September 26, 2022 at 7:30 PM**

**Present:** Jim Linville and Lisa Yrsha

**Absent:** Denis Benson

**Public:** Kim Seymour, Shawna Batogowski, Donald Hart, James A. Young Esq., Regina Downer, Chris Morrow and Jennifer Probst.

**Zoom:** Charles Goodwin and Annie Fuji’i

Jim Linville calls the meeting to order at 7:31 PM

1. **Review and Approve minutes**: Lisa has grammar and spelling corrections to the minutes of August 22, 2023. Shawna Batogowski will correct the errors. The meeting minutes of September 12th will add to section #3 that “Annie Fuji’i agrees to write and place the ad for the Planning Commission vacancies”. Shawna Batogowski will add the sentence to the minutes. *Annie Fuji’i moves to approve the August 22nd and Sept. 12th minutes with corrections, seconded by Charles Goodwin. Approved unanimously approved*.
2. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda**- none
3. **Public Comment**: Regina Downer RN, MS, Nurse Advocate, came tonight to say thank you for Town support with her Community Nurse Project. She states that she has been running this program for the last 5 years with a full time nurse and one part time nurse. Together they help in 6 townships, including Weston and are helping about 60 in clients in Weston. Regina says out of the 17 rescues calls she has helped with, 3 of them were here in Weston. She also runs a meal service that people use to help supplement meals on wheels. She says that she is hopeful for our continued support and the towns funding in the coming year.

Regina Downer also inquired about where the Town has emergency shelters. Jennifer Probst said that there is a working list of spots, places like Apple Knoll Inn and the Priory which have been shelters in the past, may need to be looked at again. She states we have used the Londonderry Rescue Squad building and Kim Seymour continues the use of the Colonial House Inn. She also mentioned that the Weston Rod and Gun Club was staged as a shelter in the July 2023 flood and that seemed to have worked well.

1. **Planning Commission Appointments**: James A. Young Esq. is here stating that there have been some departures on the Planning Commission recently and he would like to know where we stand on appointing new people to the committee. He says thing are going well

on the Planning Commission but the deadline for this year’s Town Plan is fast approaching. Here tonight is Chris Morrow, who would like to become a member of the Planning Commission. James A. Young Esq. says that he has also spoken with Morgan Hart and she is willing to become a member of the Planning Commission as well. With the appointment of these two people there will be 4 people total and James would like to have 5 people in total.

Annie Fuji’i says that the ad has been placed and that they will forward any interested parties to him. *Annie Fuji’i motions to appoint Chris Morrow and Morgan Hart to the Planning Commission, seconded by Charles Goodwin and unanimously approved.*

1. **Energy Grant**: Chris Morrow is here tonight to speak about the energy grant that he applied and was approved for; Chris says that the Town will receive a mini grant of $4000. This MERP Grant can help access a lot of funds available to towns for who are looking to establish or improve upon their existing Energy Counsel or Committee. There was talk about how to use these funds, i.e. helping to add solar panels to the roof of the Town Garage, or heat/ac pumps to the Town Office or just having a town solar field to offset the cost of the electric for the municipal buildings. Annie Fuji’i states that this would be something she would like to meet with Chris about. She would like to discuss if the town needs to start an “Energy Committee” or if this should be just a volunteer project. Annie will be in contact with Chris to discuss this further. Donald Hart says that he thinks the addition of heating/ac pumps to the town office would be going in the right direction and would help with getting rid of the equipment in the basement of the Town Office.
2. **Signature**- No Appeal or suit pending certificate: Lisa Yrsha motions to sign oath, seconded by Charles Goodwin, Annie Fuji’i abstained due to poor internet connection. Motion was approved and signed.
3. **Review and Approve call for Fuel Bids**: This was tabled, once Denis is present, we will open all bids received.
4. **SO#21 Payroll /SO#21 Vendors**: *Lisa Yrsha moves to approve SO#21 Payroll aggregated amount $6,943.62 seconded by Charles Goodwin, unanimously approved. Lisa Yrsha moves to approve SO#21 Vendors aggregated amount of $38,399.44 seconded by Charles Goodwin, unanimously approved.*
5. **New and old Business**: Kim Seymour would like to know if she should go ahead and fund the town appropriations with the next payroll, Jim Linville said yes. Kim will have it ready for the next meeting. Kim asked if the fire and Co2 alarms had been picked up yet. Jennifer Probst said she was going to get them and that she would have someone from the fire dept. install them.

Jennifer Probst asked for some information involving the Weston Volunteer Fire Department and their VLTC/ FEMA claims, she was looking to clarify if she should be filing with the town or separately. Mike Smilovich has filed with FEMA as a private non-profit. Lisa Yrsha has added a line item to include the Fire Department under RPA Town of Weston. Jennifer also said that Mike Smilovich will be relocating and will not be the EMD anymore. Jennifer was also looking for information pertaining to the ownership of the Fire Department building and equipment. This will be looked into.

Jim Linville says that he has been made aware of 3 properties that would be interested in participating in the Vermont funding mitigation buyouts and that we should be looking into this and what it entails for the Town of Weston. Jim also said that he had a quick meeting with The Little School and will share the minutes of that once they are complete.

Shawna Batogowski brought up that Brattleboro Development/SeVEDS would like to join in the Oct. 24, 2023 meeting. Jim asked Shawna to invite them to the October 24th Selectboard meeting and add them to the agenda.

*9:08 Jim Linville moves to exit seconded by Lisa Yrsha and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned by Vice Chair 9:09*

Denis Benson, Chair Jim Linville, Vice Chair

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Anne Fuji’i , Secretary Lisa Yrsha

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Charles Goodwin

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