



MINUTES OF THE PAWLET SELECT BOARD

October 4, 2011

7:05 PM Meeting called to order by chair Mike Beecher

Present: Mike Beecher, Sue LaPorte, Clarence Decker, Bob Jones

Audience present: Kevin Mason, Diane Mason, Dave Ricard, Alice Ricard, Lucia Suarez (Rutland Herald), Charlie Mason, Bill Humphries, Elizabeth Gibson, Martha Schoenemann

The minutes of September 20, 2011 were reviewed. *Motion by Deck, seconded by Sue to accept the minutes with corrections, so voted.*

Audience

Dave Ricard, Constable regarding dog complaint

- The dog owners were not present. An animal complaint from Diane Mason re: the neighbor's pit bull and mastiff that got on her porch and attacked her dog. Dave Ricard went to 226 Kelly Hill Road Derusha residence. Derusha said his dogs were inside all day. Dave said he'd get a search warrant, come back, and take all dogs. Derusha's wife said to take dogs then. Dave has had the dogs for 10 days. The pit bull got loose at the kennel. There are no signs of rabies, aggression, etc. in the dogs.
- Stipulations are \$10 per dog per day for kennel the fee (totaling \$200), and a \$25/animal conditional release fee. The owners must get rabies vaccinations for the dogs and register both dogs within 5 working days. The dogs must be on leash, and the leash held in hand at all times. The pit bull must be muzzled. There is a \$35/dog fine for letting dogs run free. Dave is not going to ticket them until after the 5 day period is up.
- Deck asked Kevin and Diane if they are satisfied with the stipulations. They are. Diane wants to make sure they don't come on her property.
- Kevin and Diane asked about their vet bills. The board responded that it's a civil matter.
- They asked if the other dogs have to be registered, leashed, etc. Dave said the other dogs have to be done as well. Dave will go back and check.
- *Motion by Deck, seconded by Sue, to fine the owners \$10/day per animal, \$25/animal for conditional release, requiring a rabies vaccination and registering the dogs within 5 working days. So voted.*
- Deck said Dave needs an extension on the warrant. *Motion by Deck, seconded by Bob, to reissue the warrant for an additional 90 days. So voted.*

Charlie Mason, Lister

- Charlie attended the VTel computer training.
- The Listers received one appeal to PVR from BCA hearings. It may be 18 months before it's heard. Does the town want to involve their attorney? Charlie will discuss the appeal with the other listers and present the board with their decision.
- Charlie asked who is in charge of the thermostats. The meeting room thermostat was on "fan" last Thursday and would have run all weekend if Charlie hadn't caught it. Sue said the last person leaving the building is in charge. The HVAC contractor has been contacted to clean the furnace, etc. before winter.

Elizabeth Gibson: Neighborworks is coming a week from today to talk about the energy efficiency program at 7:00 at the Town Hall. For every home improved, the town receives \$50. We are at 30% of our goal. When we reach that goal, \$10,000 will be awarded to the town for municipal building upgrades.

Deb asked Elizabeth to hold off on the Newsletter until she can get the information on the bond to her.

Martha Schoenemann would like to book the Auditorium for a private function in December. It was the consensus of the board to use the preliminary rental agreement for now. Martha will talk to Sue regarding the particulars.

Consideration of Bond Vote

- Mike had a discussion with Pete and Paul via email. They suggested the bond be for a maximum of 1.25 million. 1.21 million is the preliminary amount estimated. Mike would prefer to do 1.25 to allow for a cushion. The board concurs.
- The revised bond documents need a dollar amount.
- Deb recommends the informational meeting be held on November 1 as part of a regularly scheduled meeting. *Motion by Deck, seconded by Sue, to have the meeting on November 1 at 7:00 PM, so voted.*
- *Motion by Bob, seconded by Sue, to set the bond vote not to exceed 1.25 million, so voted.*
- The bond vote will be on November 8, 2011 between 9:00AM and 7:00PM by Australian Ballot.
- The warnings will be published on October 14, 21, and 28 in the Lakes Region Free Press.
- Martha asked if the bond is for 30 year. The board responded that it is, because the warranty on the machinery is for 30 years. Martha asked what the current rate is for municipalities. The board responded that the engineer will be at the informational meeting to answer all questions. The RD % has to do with the mean income of municipalities.
- Lucia asked why the informational meeting is not taking place at town meeting. The board responded that we need to take the money now or go to the bottom of the list and start all over. We are now at #10 in the state for the most important projects. Also, we need to start construction in the spring, and this time line is necessary for that to happen.
- Mike will continue the discussion with Judy and Peter about the user and non-user tax rates, the user fees, etc.
- The board signed the warning for the sewer plant bond.
- Someone will need to inspect the current hook ups. Deck will talk to Joe and see if he will do the inspections with Jeff.

Correspondence

The Clerk's memo was reviewed

- USDA re: federal assistance for wastewater treatment facility. Need two commercial lenders to provide rates. Mike has asked Judy to get this information. Mike will follow up with her.
- Better Backroads Small grants Program: Deck recommends the town do one. Deck will work with Keith. It is the consensus of the board to have Deck apply for a better backroads grant.
- Deb received a memo from Susan Schreiber regarding signs.
- Laura Markowitz has offered to do a benefit concert for renovation fundraising for the town hall. Sue will follow up.
- Deb received a mailing from VLCT regarding deadline for Irene Public Assistance Requests.
- Noel Sodher will be in town on 10/29 to help Irene victims with anything they need to get their lives back in order. Sue and Deb will pursue.
- Deb needs to hear from the board members regarding attendance at the VLCT weathering the storm workshop.
- 2012 PTO calendar: The primary and general elections fall on regular board meeting days. Is the board in agreement with these dates? The board agreed to move the meeting days to Wednesday.

Unfinished business

Deck said the rip rap has been taken care of.

Deck is following up on the damage at the wastewater plant for the insurance company.

Deck met with FEMA today. They discussed Bett's Bridge, and back roads culverts. The rail trail culvert needs to be cleaned by VTrans. Keith has cleaned it several times as a courtesy, but didn't feel it was safe to do it during the storm.

The Phil Mach Farm matter has been settled.

New Business

None

Any other business

None

9:00 PM *Motion by Deck to adjourn, so voted.*

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Folger, Clerk