

**Minutes of Selectboard Meeting  
December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Present at Meeting:**

Bert Potter, Selectman; Aaron Korzun, Selectman; Steven Nicholson, Selectman; Jamie Carrara, Road Commissioner; Linda McGuire, Treasurer; Barry Griffith, Town Agent; Mark Goodwin, Clerk

Members of the Public:

David Fretz

Wendy Loomis, Executive Dir. Child First Advocacy Center

Todd Fillmore

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Selectman Potter

**Approval of Agenda:**

Bert moved and Steven seconded to approve the agenda. Modifications: Additions Linda requested time to addresses changing banking institutions for the Town. The Clerk had received a request via Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurer listserv of a request to bring before the Selectboard information regarding the *Rutland Resolution* pertaining to siting of renewable energy projects. Approved with modifications.

**Child First Advocacy Center:**

Wendy Loomis, Executive Director of Child First Advocacy Center and Shrewsbury resident, brought forward a request for \$400 in funding for the Child Advocacy Center be either incorporated into the Town budget as a social service line item (24 V.S.A. § 2691) or placed on the Warning to be voted on at the Annual Meeting election as is the case with other such requests. Wendy explained the organization and distributed report information of the work if the Center in general and the provision of support of at least two families in Shrewsbury in the past year. The protocol for first time requests is for the requestor to present to the Selectboard, so that they have a reasonable understanding of the organization and the services they provide. The Selectboard thanked Wendy for her presentation, and indicated that they would deliberate later to ascertain on how to proceed with the request.

**Road Commissioner's Report:**

Work In the Right-Of-Way - VELCO:

Jamie presented a request from VELCO to work in the Right-Of-Way by VELCO in order to access their transmission corridor off of Lincoln Hill road. Jamie had concerns and specified that those responsible in the VELCO organization for the layout and design of the access have an on-site meeting with the Road Commissioner so that the particular aspects of the proposed site can be discussed and issues resolved prior to commencement of work. One particular item of concern that the Road Commissioner indicated for example was the slope of the area and the management of water run off onto the road and subsequent icing that has developed in the area previously.

Bert moved and Aaron seconded to approve the VELCO request for a permit to Work in the Right-Of-Way, per the specifications of the Road Commissioner. Approved

Replacement for the 2009 International Truck:

The Road Commissioner presented to the Selectboard some follow up information pertaining to options for the replacement of the 2009 International truck, which has had a history of excessive maintenance expense and unreliability because of the emission controls for that particular model of Caterpillar diesel engine.

Jamie indicated that if the Town were to make an early order, before 12/31/2015, on a 2017 Demo – International, the current 2009 truck would be a trade in with pre-set value of \$60,000, but still allowing utilization through to April would save the Town \$1,200 in increase charges. The balance of the 2017 truck

~\$112,210 would be due in May. There is also the option of using the demo plow package or possible finding the same package slightly cheaper with another vendor. This option allows for a customized package rather than the Demo package that might be more suited for a different type of infrastructure than Shrewsbury's. Jamie indicates that there is currently enough to cover the expenditure in the Road Equipment Reserve Fund. Bert moved and Steven seconded to authorize the Road Commissioner to order the 2017 International truck based on the 2009 trade in value indicated in the letter from Clark's Truck Center. Discussion: The installation of the plow accessories and gear will follow in 2016, based on bids received from vendors. Approved

Alarm System for Town Garage:

Jamie will request estimates / bids from three vendors prior to contracting for installation.

**Old VT Rte. 103**

Barry Griffith reported on his extensive research thus far in respect to the disposition of Old VT Rte. 103. Barry presented an historical overview starting in 1869 with the Beers Atlas showing the Clarendon to Cuttingsville road, the 1931 establishment of the Vermont State Highway System and the then the 1950 construction of the new VT Rte. 103 being completed and certified "open for public travel". Barry cites Book 18 Page 108 of the Shrewsbury Land Records indicating the State Highway Board certifying "control" of the former location of Route 103 being relinquished and returned to the Town of Shrewsbury. Barry further indicated that his research indicates that the Town did not maintain the Old Rte. 103 going forward from 1950. In the presentation, Barry went on to indicate some of the historical aspects of the deeds of the past and current abutters; Van Guilder / Over and Ross/Fillmore and their respective relation to Old Rte. 103 as described in the deeds. At this juncture Barry concludes, although not conclusively as evidence of the fact, that Old Rte. 103 is not a Town Highway.

At this point, Todd Fillmore indicated that his conversations with the Director's office in the Agency of Transportation would indicate that a road is still technically a road, until it is designated otherwise by a delineated process of reclassification or discontinuance.

Barry also presented a sketch map, depicting where it would seem the property lines were based on a reading of the deed descriptions. This was done to get some indication, with the map, as to what property owners would share what portions of the "road" if it were to be discontinued as such. The Town is already in receipt of a written indication that the Over's would be willing to carve out a ROW for Francis McGuinness, who was recently granted a permit to Work in the Right-Of-Way from the town for a driveway. Todd Fillmore indicated that the map seemed reasonable and was confident that, based on his understanding of the positions of the property owners, that they all could reach an accommodation.

Barry indicated that he will continue to do some research, specifically consultation with Paul Gillies an attorney in Montpelier and previous legislator who has done extensive research on the Vermont's past, particularly roads, so as to determine what the "corridor" might be called within the context of moving forward with a determination in accordance with provisions of 19 V.S.A. §§708 & 709. Barry will report at a later date to the Selectboard.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Linda indicated that based on recent collections of revenue, the Town is in position to pay back the \$250k Line of Credit with Mascoma Bank. Linda expects the interest payment to follow as it will be calculated later based on the specifics of the payback. Linda will check, but she indicated that she believes that the line of credit will be available through until September of 2016.

Steven moved and Aaron seconded to authorize Linda to pay off the \$250k Line of Credit with Mascoma Bank.  
Discussion: Steven inquired as to the availability of the Line of Credit at a later date. Linda will check, but she indicated that she believes that the line of credit will be available through until September of 2016. Approved

Linda presented her research thus far on finding a new bank, in so far as Citizens is about to start charging a \$250 per month fee to do Municipal banking. Linda listed some aspects from the following banks as possible replacements to Citizens Bank: Peoples United Bank and Merchants Bank. Each had specific pros and cons, and Linda is following up with some questions to each, such as maintaining separate accounts for the Reserve Funds, overdraft protection based on Tax Anticipation, how the investment accounts would work as an aggregate for maintain fund balances, etc.

Linda will check, unless the restrictions have been modified, it would appear that a municipality must do business with a FDIC affiliated institution, and that would disqualify credits unions, which are not insured by FDIC.

There will be further discussion on the subject later, but before the end of the year.

#### **Open to the Public:**

David Fretz inquired about if there was any new information regarding the new FEMA examination and determination of the Upper Cold River Road shear (PW 2867). The Selectboard has not been informed of any new status as to the reexamination of the proposed approach for repairing the road.

#### **New Business:**

The Clerk had received a request via Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurer listserv) a request to bring before the Selectboard information regarding the *Rutland Resolution* pertaining to siting of renewable energy projects. The request included an appeal from Rutland Town as well as a copy of the resolution along with a copy of the Vermont Town which have signed on to the resolution.

The Selectboard indicated that they will review for possible action at a meeting in the future.

#### **Minutes:**

Bert moved and Steven seconded to approve the minutes of December 2, 2015. No discussion. Approved

#### **Orders**

Bert moved and Steven seconded to approve:

Road Commissioner Orders # 12A of December 16, 2015 for \$4,334.06 and Selectboard Orders # 12A of December 16, 2015 for \$2,860.53 No discussion. Approved

#### **Child First Advocacy Center:**

Bert moved and Aaron seconded to approve the Child First Advocacy Center request for inclusion on the Town Warning with a request of \$400. Approved

Meeting was recessed at 8:50 PM, in order to reconvene again at 6:00 PM Monday December 28, 2015 to discuss which bank the Town will choose for its municipal banking.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Goodwin, Town Clerk

*These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.*

## Town of Shrewsbury

### Selectboard Meeting

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Present at Meeting: Bert Potter, Aaron Korzun, Steven Nicholson, selectboard members. Linda McGuire, Treasurer.

Members of the Public: None.

Call to Order: The December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was reconvened at 6:00 p.m. by Bert Potter, Selectboard chair.

Continued discussion of changing banks because of increased bank fees at Citizens Bank. The Treasurer presented information on two more banks: **Merchants Bank**- \$75,000.00 minimum total, (in all accounts combined). 0.35 % yearly interest rate on accounts when monthly minimum balance amount is met. Offers two sweep accounts. One for the General Fund checking and one for the restricted funds. No monthly fee when dip below minimum balance. **Peoples United Bank**- \$60,000.00 minimum balance, (total of all accounts). 0.1% yearly interest rate on accounts when monthly minimum balance amount is met. No monthly fee when dip below minimum balance. Mascoma Bank did not respond to the Treasurer's request for information. The Mascoma line of credit is only for FEMA work.

Motion made by B. Potter to designate the Merchants Bank as the Towns bank for the General Fund checking account and the Restricted Funds account. Seconded by A. Korzun. Passed 3-0.

The Town intends to continue working with the Mascoma Bank for the line of credit for future FEMA work.

Add to agenda for the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting: VELCO work on Gainer Rd.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:25 p.m.