

Approved as written: _____

Approved as corrected: _____

VERNON SELECTBOARD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017
REGULAR MEETING
6:30pm
DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christiane Howe, Chair
Sandra Harris, Vice Chair
Stephen Skibniowsky, Clerk
Josh Unruh
Emily Vergobbe

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Pong, Town Administrator
Michelle Millerick, Secretary
Barbara Moseley
Janet Rasmussen
Jean Carr
Kristin Mehalick, BDCC
RT Brown, BDCC
Rich Melanson, BCTV
Cindy Turnley, Treasurer
Kevin Turnley, Building & Grounds
Kristina Walker
Kathy Walker
Jessica Freeman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING:

Christiane Howe called the regular meeting to order at 6:30pm, welcomed those present and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Christiane Howe, Chair, had two additions to the agenda, the Highway Department wants carryover funds added to the Culvert Fund to be discussed under Dept/Committee. Council on Rural Development funding to be added to New Business.

Remove VLCT from New Business.

JOSH UNRUH MADE A MOTION TO ADD THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT CARRYOVER FUNDS TO DEPT/COMMITTEE AND TO ADD THE COUNCIL ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING TO NEW BUSINESS. SANDRA HARRIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

CHAIRS REMARKS:

With great sorrow and heartfelt sympathy to the Peduzzi family at loss of Lenny. He made the best pizza around and he worked so hard for the town of Vernon and was a very good man who will be sorely missed.

Christiane Howe, Chair, reread some rules.

Sign in on the sheet on the table and PRINT your name.

Stick to protocol on how to speak out, Open Public Comments for non-agenda items, you should raise your hand and the Chair will call on you. At that point, come to the microphone, no shouting from your seat, it only causes disruption from the boards conversation. If the board moves on without calling you, please don't panic as you will be given a chance to speak later. Under no circumstances should you interrupt the board as it is very distracting, however know that what you have to say is important and you will be able to speak when we are done. The end of the agenda is Public Participation for agenda items only.

GUESTS:

Kristin Mehalick, BDCC and RT Brown, BDCC spoke about SeVEDS updates. SoVT Young Professionals will be at the Brattleboro Museum & Arts Center for the 2nd Annual Creative Black Tie Gala. This is a community-wide fundraiser on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 7:30pm. They have an article for town meeting and will have representatives there.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS (non-Agenda items):

Kristina Walker wanted to let the board know that her name was spelled incorrectly on the flyers and the draft of the last meeting minutes and wanted to make sure it would be spelled correctly on the ballot.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORT:

a) **Cemetery Committee:** Janet Rasmussen, Cemetery Committee, would like the board to change the wording in the Town of Vernon Investment Policy about financial advisor to read manager/advisor. There was also discussion on the policy regarding Town Representative ability to make investment decisions. The Town Administrator will submit a draft amendment to the policy for board review at the next meeting.

b) **Treasurer-** Title discussion and Vacation Carryover Request. Cindy Turnley, Treasurer would like to carry over 80 hours of vacation time which she could not use last year. The Treasurers title was discussed and decided that it should remain Treasurer/Financial Director.

STEPHEN SKIBNIOWSKY MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW CINDY TURNLEY'S VACATION TIME TO CARRY FORWARD FOR USE IN THE NEXT YEAR. SANDRA HARRIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

c) **Highway Department-** Carryover funds to be allotted to the Culvert Fund. Cindy Turnley, Treasurer, clarified that the funds were already approved for carryover. Approval was being sought to place those funds into the Culvert Fund.

SANDRA HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS REQUEST AND HAVE THE TREASURER MOVE

\$59,837.45 OVER TO THE CULVERT FUND. STEPHEN SKIBNIOWSKY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

d) **Council on Rural Development** – Grant money. Cindy Turnley explained that Michelle Pong has paperwork for the board to sign to receive \$10,000.00 in grant money from the VCRD on behalf of the newly formed Friends of Vernon Center, Inc. Village Café and Village Center merged and need a place for the money to go until they receive the 501C3. The board read the paperwork and approved and signed.

STEPHEN SKIBNIOWSKY MADE A MOTION TO HAVE CHRISTIANE HOWE, CHAIR SIGN THE DOCUMENT FROM THE COUNCIL ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT. SANDRA HARRIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

SANDRA HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS, CORRECT THE SPELLING OF KRISTINA WALKER'S NAME, PG 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES THERE'S NO SECOND OR ACTION FROM JANUARY 19, 2017. EMILY VERGOBBE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bills and Warrants

STEPHEN SKIBNIOWSKY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FOR SIGNATURES AND PAYMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING BILLS AND WARRANTS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017.

15 –T Accounts Payable - \$20,935.91

4S Payroll - \$9,062.23

5S Payroll - \$8,497.21

SANDRA HARRIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) **Black Gum Swamp Update** – Discussion of how to proceed. Michelle Pong, Town Administrator will contact Laura Lapierre and set up a meeting in April.

OLD BUSINESS:

a) **Articles for Annual Report/Town Meeting.** The board discussed who would be assigned to which Article.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (agenda items only):

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

FITTS, OLSON & GIDDINGS stating that Laurie A. Rowell will be leaving this office and there is a release form for the board to sign if the board wants to stay with Fitts, Olson & Giddings. Marylynn Scherlin, Delinquent Tax Collector, has agreed to complete the correspondence.

Notice of Appearances in VY/Northstar discussions.

Summer Economic Development Forum is taking place on May 24, 2017 if anyone is interested in going.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

The Spring Select Board Institute will be held on March 11, 2017 for any new board members interested.

David Walker is working with the WRC to complete the 2017 Better Roads Grant.

David Walker is also working with the state in regards to their plans to replace the bridge on Route 5 in Guilford, understanding that traffic in Vernon will increase a bit as people seek an alternate route south of the bridge or up to Brattleboro. The project is expected to last a month, dates are not definite yet but sometime over the summer. The State will have a public meeting possibly in May. David Walker is encouraging the closure of Broad Brook Road at the Guilford side.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE:

- a) **Regular Meeting** - Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 6:30pm.
- b) **Town Meeting** – March 6, 2017, 6:30pm – Vernon Elementary School Cafetorium.
- c) **Voting** – March 7, 2017, 7am to 7pm – bottom level of the Town Office Building.
- d) **Town Meeting Continued** - if necessary March 8, 2017, 6:30pm - Vernon Elementary School Cafetorium.

ADJOURNMENT:

JOSH UNRUH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:45PM. SECONDED BY SANDY HARRIS. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by
Michelle Millerick
Michelle Millerick, Secretary