

**MINUTES  
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 13, 2010 – 7:00 PM  
MUNICIPAL BOARD ROOM**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Jim Rust, Rodney Lamotte, Bryon Quatrini, Bernard Timson, Daniel Kimbell and Town Manager Ralph Nelson.

Also present: Secretary Ida Rainville, Larry Sharer, Town Clerk Sandy Grenier, Public Works Director Danny Scott, Diane Beck, Jon Beck, Kim Pearsons, Joyce Littlefield, Joan Wollrath, Brian Christman, Charlie Browne, Guy Isabelle, John Perry, Aine Baker, Ken Gordon, Bob South, Kevin Montminy, Tina Wood, Werner Heidemann, Larry Crist, Taylor Reed and the News 7 crew.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge at 7:00 pm.

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

**Minutes** – On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Daniel Kimbell, the minutes from 11/22/10 were tabled until the next meeting.

**Warrants** – On a motion by Daniel Kimbell, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board voted unanimously to approve and sign the following warrants:

Jay Lyn account Check #108		\$ 1725.00
Accounts Payable Checks #	65582 – 65647	\$ 193,440.79
	65648 – 65676	\$2,035,329.47
	65677 – 65781	\$6,676,257.12
Grant Funds Check #	2279 – 2280	\$ 2,380.25
	2281 – 2283	\$25,702.79
	2284	\$ 1,654.98

**Pump Station and Miscellaneous Improvements – Contract 2010 – 4** – Ralph Nelson reported that T. Buck Enterprises was the only bidder on this project which was engineered by Dufresne Group. The bid was \$57,017. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Bernie Timson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid and authorize Town Manager Ralph Nelson to sign all contract documents necessary to complete the project, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

**Tax Collection Update** – Town Clerk Sandy Grenier distributed a spreadsheet showing tax collection from 1978 through 2010. Out of 3244 bills originally sent in August, 2010, for a total of \$11,749,955, and 127 amended bills with a November 19, 2010 due date, current delinquent taxes total \$458,178.01, the equivalent of 96% collection rate. The Clerk issued a warrant after the due date of November 19, to the delinquent tax collector. Sandy also reported that the office had collected approximately \$53,000 in delinquent taxes since these figures were compiled. Sandy reminded people that if taxes are paid off before December 29 their names will be removed from the list of delinquent taxes in the Town Report.

**Tax Sale** – Jim Rust reported that the Board will look at possible tax sale procedures after December 29, which would include properties that are two years or more delinquent. Sandy said that would include 81 of 254 delinquent properties.

**Special Appropriations** – Chairman Jim Rust clarified the request from the Select Board to have representatives from organizations requesting special appropriations from the Town to update the Board and public to the type of organization they are and how the funds may be used.

**American Red Cross** – Larry Crisp and Tina Wood presented the organization chart and budget for the Vermont and New Hampshire Valley Region of the American Red Cross. They reviewed the projects and work done by the Red Cross on a group and individual basis. The Red Cross intends to request \$1,800, the same amount that they requested in 2010.

**Fairbanks Museum** – Charlie Browne represented the Fairbanks Museum, and brought the Board up to date with the Museum and Planetarium budget. Mr. Browne pointed out that the Museum continues to be instrumental in attracting visitors and business to the Downtown, and the \$56,700 the Town appropriates for the Museum is a small portion of the overall budget.

**Area Agency on Aging** – Ken Gordon and John Perry represented the AAA, and provided copies of services offered by the organization and the current budget. Mr. Gordon named a great many services that the Area Agency on Aging provides to help keep elderly people in their own homes, which costs significantly less than having to move into assisted living or a nursing home. They will continue to request the \$7,200 which was approved for the organization in 2010.

**Kingdom Animal Shelter** – Aine Baker, vice president of the Kingdom Animal Shelter (KAS) said this is the first time his organization has requested a direct appropriation from the Town. Mr. Baker went into detail of the expenses incurred each time a cat is picked up and kept for adoption – approximately \$131 per animal. The organization also works with local animal control officers on cruelty cases. They will ask for \$3,000 from the town.

**RSVP** – Mr. J. Guy Isabelle and Joan Wollrath represented the RSVP and gave statistics on the number of volunteer hours. The organization matches volunteers with non profits and others who need help. RSVP will continue to ask \$810 from the Town.

**Budget** – Mr. Nelson asked the Selectboard for direction on the budget development. Jim Rust indicated he thought an up-to-date budget can be established easier after the year end processes. Al Dunn asked if money will be figured into the budget for changes recommended in the Town Plan. The Town Plan is projected to be finished in June or July.

Diane Beck questioned the number of employees still in the Town Clerk's office as compared to the number of employees in the Lyndonville office, including the electric billing done in the Lyndonville office. Bryon Quatrini pointed out the Lyndonville Town Clerk's office does not do the billing for Lyndonville Electric, and maintains 3.75 people daily. Also, when Diane Beck asked about the weeks that Sandy Grenier was fulfilling the vacant Town Representative position with the State and was absent from the Town Clerk's office four out of five days, Bryon Quatrini pointed out that Sandy had worked nights and weekends to make up that time.

**Town Manager's Report** – Union Contracts - Mr. Nelson reported that he has the third meeting with the Fire Department scheduled and has exchanged documents with the Police Department. He has been frustrated with the lack of response from the Public Works attorney and hopes to exchange proposals with the Public Works department within a few days.

After a meeting with the VLCT staff about the PACIF insurance, Mr. Nelson pointed out several places where he felt a significant amount of money could be saved and will work toward that end during the year, and put out an RFP for PACIF insurance during 2011.

The Town Manager said he and the Planning Commission are looking at a possible municipal planning grant that would allow a new website for the Town with greater functionality, interactive, and make it possible to pay bills on line if the Town Clerk wanted to try that.

On a motion by Daniel Kimbell and seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board voted to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ida W. Rainville  
Executive Secretary