

**MINUTES
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011**

The Board of Selectmen met at the Town Offices on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7 pm for a regular Selectboard meeting.

Present were: Chairman Bryon Quatrini, Jim Rust, Bill Merrow, Rod Lamotte, and Alan Ruggles. Also present were Town Manager Ralph Nelson, Secretary Ida Rainville, Avery Rowell, Donna Rowell, Stacy Perkins, Brian Christman, Tim Persons, Peggy Pearl, Jim Impey, Kevin Oddy, Sandy Grenier, Dan Scott, Al Dunn, Ben Luna, Bernie Timson, Gary Lunderville, Diane Beck, Jon Beck, Naomi Dean, Mike Fortier, Sean Jewell, Lisa Carrere, Bill Rodd, Nancy Cohen, Bob South, Kathy Goslant, Stan Wilkins, Linda Colby, Frank Landry, Chad Whitehead, Maureen Hennings, the News 7 Crew, and Taylor Reed from the Caledonian Record.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge at 7:00 PM, by Bryon Quatrini.

Public Comment: Stan Wilkins approached the Board with a study he had conducted using his own experience from working on the Planning and Development Review Board, concerning the cross walks in front of the Post Office and at the top of Eastern Avenue. According to many hours of observation, Stan concluded that stop signs on either side of the top of Eastern Avenue going north and south on Main Street, and a stop sign for traffic traveling west (up) Eastern Avenue, would provide a safer atmosphere for pedestrians and not eliminate many parking spaces. He also suggested trying a bright lime green for the cross walks, enhancing the visibility of the walkways. After some discussion, the Board's general agreement was to instruct Ralph and Dan Scott to consult with the State of Vermont on this project, and if approved put it into effect for the summer months trial period.

On a request by KATV, Ralph Nelson formally introduced the Board members to the public, stating names, positions and time frames on the Board.

Nancy Cohen stated she thought that since ADA requirements were put into effect in 1991, if certain requirements were not met, the town could be fined, like for the municipal building not being handicap accessible, nor the sidewalks and crosswalks being completely within ADA code. She also mentioned that she had seen Public Works Director Dan Scott on the Back Center Road near the turn out by the Gas Plant, which had been plowed for the winter months, and which had also gathered a considerable amount of garbage and cast off furniture, appliances and tires. She asked if Mr. Scott had had the opportunity to clean up the area. Dan said it's on his list. Nancy also questioned the posting of the special meeting from March 30. Ralph said the meeting was warned and announcements were sent to all media as usual.

Warrants – On a motion by Rod Lamotte, seconded by Bill Merrow, the Board voted unanimously to approve and signed the following warrants:

General Funds A/P:

Check #66355 – 66409	\$ 165,207.98	#66425 – 66460	\$ 140,793.50
#66410 – 66417	2,577.66	#66461 – 66494	38,329.31
#66418 – 66422	8,697.15	#66495 – 66499	39,982.19
#66423	10,479.51	#66500 – 66520	93,809.76
#66424	117.90		

Grants: Check #2293 – 2294 \$3,370.36 #2295 \$2,225.00 #2296 \$1385.14

Jay Lyn Account: Check #109 \$105.00

Liquor License – On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to approve a liquor license for Cucina de Gerardo on Railroad Street in the former Dylan's Café location.

Secondary warrant signatory – On a motion by Bill Merrow, seconded by Alan Ruggles, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Bryon Quatrini as second signatory for weekly warrants if Alan Ruggles is not available.

Town Road and Bridge Standards – Ralph reported that the town is currently in compliance with state standards on roads and bridges. By remaining in compliance the Town can save 10% on some projects, being required to pay 10% match as opposed to a 20% match. On a motion by Rod Lamotte, seconded by Jim Rust, the Board voted unanimously to adopt and sign the Road and Bridge Standards. Jim Rust questioned how the training requirement is monitored for public works employees. Dan Scott and Ralph Nelson confirmed that it would be tracked by the Town.

Grants – Ralph reported that the Town did not apply for roads and structures grants in 2010, but that there is money available in 2011 and the State has issued a violation on Bridge 19, Concord Avenue which will cost approximately \$125,500. Another area to be addressed is on Bible Hill where the road has nearly washed out twice this year – projected cost \$42,000. Combined projects would require \$16,700 total from the Town.

For Class II paving, Dan Scott had suggested paving Breezy Hill, from Route 5 in St. J. Center, to the residential area, just north of the water line and before the Hychauk property. Deadline for applications is April 15. Ralph mentioned sections of Route 2 from the Portland Street Bridge to the town line, which is a Class I highway and therefore comes under separate funding. Mr. Nelson said he would put it on a list for NVDA.

Appointments – On a motion by Rod Lamotte, seconded by Alan Ruggles, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Chad Whitehead to the Development Review Board, and Maureen Henning to the Planning Commission. Ralph said he had four people express interest in the Listers' position.

Dispatch Grant – On a motion by Alan Ruggles, seconded by Bill Merrow, the Board formally voted to accept the grant for an upgrade to Dispatch equipment.

Parking Meter Project – Ralph Nelson reported that Officer Lester Cleary has been conducting a survey of the parking meters downtown – Total 223 meters in town; 65 Main Street area; 68 Eastern Ave.; 74 Railroad Street, 16 Pearl Street; 178 Double heads, and 22 need repair. Most of the meters are too old to get repair parts for, so Ralph suggested that if the Town decides to continue to use parking meters, some thought might be given to digital meters.

Ben Luna introduced himself as a volunteer working with young people in town. Several students from the Caledonia School were present to show a project they have been working on to paint murals on the meter posts on Railroad Street. Mr. Luna presented the program as “Service Learning” wherein the students take responsibility of the project from start to finish. He also introduced Andy Barter and school administrator Naomi Dean who are supervising the project. Mr. Luna pointed out that the students have developed a good timeline for the project and have set a projected budget of \$250. Rod Lamotte suggested other businesses might donate from the Downtown area. Bob South offered a donation of left over funds from his campaign to run for State Representative from November 2010. Nancy Cohen informed the group that she had attended a fund-raising pancake breakfast that raised \$600 over the weekend. Bernard Timson offered to donate \$100 to the group as a credit at Mayo’s for purchasing supplies. On a motion by Bill Merrow, seconded by Jim Rust, the Board voted unanimously to approve the project. Diane Beck expressed some concern over safety of the students, to which Ben Luna said they had addressed those concerns. Tina Wood volunteered a dozen reflective vests for the students to wear while on the street.

History & Heritage – Peggy Pearl and Jim Impey were present to discuss the possible use of the Community Center (former Armory building at 1249 Main Street). Peggy said their organization has been looking for a space for the History and Heritage Museum, and its proximity to other historical locales on Main Street would make the Armory ideal. They requested two months to further study the site and the viability of its use. Nancy Cohen questioned the availability of sufficient parking, which is actually covered by the proximity of the municipal parking lot. Ralph Nelson pointed out that if the municipal offices move to Railroad Street, many spaces will be freed up in the parking lot. Mr. Nelson reported that another interested party had approached the Town – with the possible development of a thrift store/recycling/Goodwill type of venue, which would employ disabled and low income individuals. The general consensus of the Board was to give two months of time to the History & Heritage Board.

Corrections – Work Camp – Dave Peebles of the State Corrections Department reported that they would like to expand the capacity of the St. Johnsbury Work Camp from 100 to 112 with no increase in size of the structure. The State agreed to double its fee to the Town from \$10,000 to \$20,000, and will furnish a work crew for the Town at various appropriate jobs, to be done when they are not busy with other jobs. Ralph Nelson said he would like to modify the agreement suggested by the State, that each participant would give a 90-day notice of proposed change, modification, or termination of the agreement. Mr. Peebles agreed to review the modification if Ralph would supply a re-worded copy. Jim Rust referred to a special meeting concerning the work camp on 4/7/2008 during which the

Board reviewed a 100-bed restriction applied to the Work camp by the DRB, and suggested the State would need approval from the DRB to add the 12 beds to the facility. The earliest this can be warned is the May meeting, after which the Board of Selectmen will review.

Wastewater Treatment Report – Mr. Nelson reported that letters to legislators concerning the nitrogen levels in the Connecticut River are being finished and will be ready to sign later in the week. Ralph reported that at the January 27 meeting, the Board had approved an application for planning loan for the total evaluation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and pump stations, in the amount of \$35,900, 0% interest with 0 payments over the next 5 years. If the Town gets a grant for any project as a result of the study, the loan amount can be rolled into the grant. On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Alan Ruggles, the Board voted unanimously to accept the loan and sign the engineering agreement with Dufresne Group.

Mount Vernon Street Water Main – Ralph Nelson said that there are two sections of 8” iron pipe water mains serving the Mt. Vernon and High Street area, which should be replaced by one 12” main before the construction of the bike path. Mr. Nelson and Dan Scott explained that if the work is not done before the transportation path, it would not necessitate digging up the path later to replace the mains. Some questions were raised about the necessity of doing the job in the first place, to which Dan replied that it has been a problem area, along with several other areas in town, and it makes good sense to take care of this particular area now. Chad Whitehead guessed the cost at around \$150,000, within the water budget for the year. This triggered some discussion on the Lamoille Rail Trail, which confirmed that plans are still going forward with the plan.

Stacy Perkins asked if this was a priority area and Dan said all areas of town need attention. Gary Lunderville wanted to know if Dan’s crew would do the work, to which Dan replied, “No, not enough time or manpower.” Chad Whitehead said Red Dufresne had indicated an independent contract was absolutely necessary. In answer to Brian Christman’s question, Mr. Nelson confirmed the \$150,000 included engineering.

Welcome Center Operations Agreement – Mr. Nelson pointed out that the current operations agreement is obsolete and requested the authority of the Board to negotiate a new agreement with the tenants and Welcome Center Advisory Board. Jim Rust stated that, according to Title 37 in the State Statutes, the Town Manager is in charge of public buildings and therefore has the authority and responsibility. Mr. Nelson said he was meeting with the Welcome Center Advisory Board on April 12.

Manager’s Report – Mr. Nelson informed the Board that he advertised for quotes from firms for inspection engineering services. Dufresne Group was the most qualified. In answer to Lisa Briggs question of February 14, would the bike path be included in mileage statements from the State, “No.” Scheduling groundbreaking on the West side Project as soon as weather permits, and it has been determined that off duty patrol officers currently working for the Town could be hired for traffic control, keeping the funds within the Town.

Easement letters have been set to all property owners that may be affected by the northern portion of the Westside project. Meetings arranged for at the Lively Center to answer questions and get easements signed – 3 meetings, 4/12, 4/28 at the Lively Center, and 4/30 at the municipal boardroom.

Mr. Nelson confirmed that the night parking ban was in effect through April 15. He also reported to the Board that the Town has received thank you letters from various organizations that received special appropriations for 2011.

On a motion by Alan Ruggles, seconded by Bill Merrow, the board adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ida W. Rainville
Executive Secretary