

GUILFORD SELECTBOARD - MEETING
Monday, 23 July 2018, 6:30 pm, 236 School Road, Guilford, VT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Verandah Porche, Sheila Morse, Gordon Little

OFFICIALS/ STAFF PRESENT: Peder Rude (Town Administrator)

- I. Call to Order
- II. Recognition of Public: Ian Kiehl (BCTV), Steve Lembke (resident)
- III. Rules of Procedure
- IV. New Additions
- V. Changes to Agenda Order
- VI. Approval of Minutes (5 minutes)
 - a. Regular Meeting - 9 July 2018
 - i. **ACTION** Gordon moved to approve the minutes as written. Verandah seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.
- VII. Highway
 - a. General Update
 - i. Peder spoke with Dan earlier in the day. The crew had been working on a lot of ditching, cleaning out culverts, installed a couple of new culverts, and some minor grading after the rain. The Better Roads grant work for Sweet Pond Road was started by MT3 and is now half completed.
- VIII. New Business
 - a. FiOS Report - Sheila (10 minutes)
 - i. Sheila reminded everyone of the work and research on securing fast Internet service to all of Guilford that has brought us to this point. One of the main goals arising from Guilford's participation in the 2013 Vermont Council on Rural Development program was improving the economic vitality of Guilford. From that, one of the points was the need for improved internet access in the rural homes within Guilford for a multitude of reasons. Sheila shared the ups and downs of the work related to this over the years since 2015 and the work she and Gordon have done with many other parties in private enterprise, state government, and local residents. She asked for community participation in brainstorming next steps, and would be grateful to find someone who can take the lead on this project going forward, as this should not be primarily a Selectboard project.

Gordon thanked Sheila for all of the tremendous effort she has put forth in this difficult work. There some minor discussion between Selectboard members present.

GUILFORD SELECTBOARD - MEETING
Monday, 23 July 2018, 6:30 pm, 236 School Road, Guilford, VT

- ii. **ACTION** Peder to put the draft report on the Town website.

b. Set Tax rate

(10 minutes)

- i. Peder shared with the Selectboard the tax rate calculations for 2018 and 2017 for comparison. The calculation is made by inputting information from the budget that was passed at Town Meeting Day in March 2018 and adding in the State education tax rate. There are also several local agreements that residents have voted on and passed in the past. One is a series of tax exemptions for non-profit organizations. Guilford is one of many towns in the state that recognizes our disabled veterans and give them an additional tax break on their assessed value beyond the State mandated \$10,000. The proposed homestead tax rate for 2018 is \$2.4810 per \$1000 of assessed value and the non-residential is \$2.3469 per \$1000 of assessed value. For comparison purposes, last year's homestead tax rate was \$2.4256 per \$1000 of assessed value and non-residential was \$2.2704 per \$1000 of assessed value. There was a brief discussion with Selectboard members about the rates and about the tax break provided to disabled veterans.
- ii. **ACTION** Gordon moved to set the 2018 Tax Calculation with a homestead tax rate of \$2.4810 per \$1000 of assessed value and a non-residential tax rate of 2.3469 per \$1000 of assessed value. Verandah seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.
- iii. **ACTION** Peder to follow-up with Lisa regarding history of veterans property tax exemption and to follow-up with the Selectboard.

c. Drives to Roads - Next Steps

(10 minutes)

- i. Sheila shared that there was a brief discussion considering doing a study to understand the larger context and implications of converting the Town's private drives to public roads. Peder began researching this topic last week. During the research thus far, he did learn that Guilford is not alone in this and many small towns within Vermont either have or are in the process of dealing with this topic. He is working on compiling a memo to the Selectboard with information that he has gathered from other towns and from VLCT for consideration on this topic. There was a brief discussion with Selectboard members present.

d. Town Mowing Bid

(10 minutes)

- i. Peder presented a mowing bid for the Town office, Guilford Free Library, Playscape, and historical society that was submitted by Xpert Lawncare. One item that stands out is that Xpert Lawncare would like the Selectboard to consider a three year contract, which makes it more worth their time. The proposal was broken down by property, with mowing, and spring/fall clean up. Additionally, the annual fee and three year fees are outlined. There was some discussion that followed by the Selectboard members that were present.
- ii. **ACTION** Peder to follow-up on the following questions: How to cover the expense of library mowing? How to cover the expense of the Playscape mowing? How to cover the expense of the Town office mowing? What does spring & fall clean up consist of by Xpert Lawncare? Does Rec Com have any reserve funds?

GUILFORD SELECTBOARD - MEETING
Monday, 23 July 2018, 6:30 pm, 236 School Road, Guilford, VT

- iii. **ACTION** Verandah moved to accept the Xpert Lawncare bid for mowing of the Town office and the Guilford Free Library with follow-up on several questions around the Playscape and spring and fall cleanup to follow. Gordon seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. No one abstained. Motion carried.

IX. Old Business

- a. CC4G Update Letter (5 minutes)
 - i. Sheila read an update letter from Elly Majonen and the work progress they are making. There was a brief discussion between Selectboard members.

X. Discussion/Updates

- a. Flood & Fluvial Erosion Hazard Ordinance & Property Values (10 minutes)
 - i. Sheila discussed the work and research that has happened regarding the proposed Flood & Fluvial Erosion Hazard Ordinance and the potential impact it may have on property values. There are too many factors unique to each property that require this to be handled on a case by case basis and not on an universal basis across Town. Gordon inquired what has been done for properties that were in the flood zone prior to the proposal of the Flood & Fluvial Erosion Hazard Ordinance. There is no reliable way to get accurate numbers for impacts on property values from the adoption of the Special Flood Hazard area in 2007. Sheila noted there has been no precedent for this in Guilford in the 40+ years of river corridor ordinances. Steve answered some questions for the Selectboard. He noted that other towns either have not had this come up or they address it on a case by case basis. This included a clarification between the original ordinance in 1989 and the updated one in 2007. He also recommends addressing this on a case by case basis and not implementing a blanket ordinance for the entire Town. Sheila shared that on 12 September 2018 at the Guilford Center School from 6:00-8:00pm there be a community forum jointly held by the Guilford Conservation Commission, the Windham Regional Commission, and Green River Watershed Alliance.

XI. Finance

- a. Warrants (5 minutes)

Payroll – WE 07/15/18	\$5548.36
Payroll – WE 07/22/18	\$5106.26
Expense Warrant #1802	\$135,099.62
TOTAL	\$145,754.24

ACTION Gordon moved to pay finance warrants as read. Verandah seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. None abstained. Motion carried.

XII. Communications

GUILFORD SELECTBOARD - MEETING
Monday, 23 July 2018, 6:30 pm, 236 School Road, Guilford, VT

- a. Steve asked how often the Selectboard hears an update on Windham Regional Commission updates? There was a brief discussion with Selectboard members regarding frequency.

XIII. Adjournment

ACTION Gordon moved to adjourn at 7:43 pm. Verandah seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. None abstained. Motion carried.

Next Selectboard Meeting: 08.13.18 at 6:30 pm

Gabrielle Ciuffreda _____

Sheila Morse Sheila Morse

Verandah Porche Verandah Porche

Richard Wizansky _____

Gordon Little [Signature]