

Selectboard members present: Peter Marsh, Mathew Norris, Susan Jefferies (Chair)
Others present: Fred Baser, Jon Fenner, Jessica Bridge, Linda Dague, Douglas Dague,
Mike Shepard,

S. Jefferies called meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes: M. Norris moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014 Selectboard meeting. M. Norris seconded. Voted and approved.

Bills: P. Marsh moved to instruct the Treasurer to pay the bills with a correction to check #19358 noted on the orders. M. Norris seconded. Voted and approved.

Visitors' Business:

Fred Baser – Mr. Baser is running for a seat in the Vermont House of Representatives. He met with the Selectboard to discuss his background and qualifications. The Selectboard mentioned several areas of concern, including collecting property taxes on unlanded mobile homes, the recent rollout of the Vermont Health Exchange, the requirement of Vermont towns to cover all costs related to legislative mandates, and the lack of state assistance for school building renovations and upgrades.

DRB Candidate – Jon Fenner met with the Selectboard to express his interest in serving on the Development Review Board. He has attended a DRB meeting and met with the Zoning Administrator to learn about the position. The Selectboard has one other candidate to meet before making an appointment.

Offer to Sell Big Heavy World Property to Starksboro – Jessica Bridge, a realtor representing Jim Lockridge and Big Heavy World, provided information on the three properties that Big Heavy World would like to sell. M. Norris noted that the town owns enough land to meet town needs. P. Marsh pointed out that there may be some liabilities for the town in owning the property, particularly regarding a spring that is used as a water source and a building that is in significant disrepair. The Selectboard decided not to pursue purchasing this property. S. Jefferies signed the realtor's disclosure form.

Jerusalem Schoolhouse – Linda and Douglas Dague and Mike Shepard attended the meeting to discuss revised plans for the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. The foundation has been inspected. There are several cracks in the foundation that should be repaired before any remodeling work is done. It was also noted that the roof rafters don't meet code for a public building. There was much discussion about the future plans for the building, including (initials indicate the person who spoke):

- LD – Their proposal is to use \$35,000 raised by the Friends of the Jerusalem Schoolhouse, ask the town for an additional \$35,000 and raise another \$30,000 through grants and fundraising. They would then work within a \$100,000 budget to do as much as possible.
- PM – It is important to get a good estimate of the costs first. Project costs can get out of control without a budget. He wants to be confident that we have numbers

that work so we don't have to ask for more money or scale back part way through the project. Also, grant applications will usually require a project budget.

- PM – He would prefer that the project include a full basement, which could house mechanicals and free up additional space in the building. The difference in cost between a 5' frost wall and an 8' basement is usually not that large.
- MS – He will prepare a budget with some guidance about building design.
- MN – The kitchen is very large for a building that is used so little. Is it necessary to put so much money into a big kitchen?
- SJ – A petition should be circulated to put an article on the warning for any tax money to be raised. Fund raising efforts should be done by the Friends of the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. Fundraising letters can include that money raised will go to a restricted account solely for the schoolhouse project.
- SJ – The Selectboard should decide on a design plan soon so that budgets can be prepared.
- MS – The floor system in the ell is what is holding the foundation together. It would be a waste of money to make improvements to the building without fixing the foundation. He will prepare budget estimates for the November 11 Selectboard meeting.
- LD – The Friends of the Jerusalem Schoolhouse are meeting Wednesday. She is confident that an acceptable plan can be done within a \$100,000 budget.

Mail:

- **Addison County Community Trust** – The Selectboard received a letter from ACCT regarding abandoned homes in the mobile home parks. This is an ongoing issue. S. Jefferies will draft a response for Selectboard review.

New Business:

Penalties for Late Filers – M. Norris moved that Starksboro not waive penalties for late filers of HS-122. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.

Health Insurance – The Selectboard discussed health insurance changes that go into effect on January 1, 2015. When the FY14-15 budget was prepared, the Selectboard included an amount for health insurance for each employee. Employees selected their health coverage from the Vermont Health Exchange. The Selectboard agreed that the amount of money allocated for health insurance in the budget is the total amount that the town will cover.

Policy Decisions – The Selectboard has been asked to consider policies for Public Records Requests, Website Internal Management and Internal Controls regarding fraud and crime prevention. This will be discussed at a future meeting when draft policies are available.

Old Business:

Drainage at Town Office – Denny Casey is looking into possible solutions. One options is a dry well covered by a grate, possibly combined with a low area where excess water could accumulate short term.

Park and Ride – P. Marsh has completed and mailed the Park and Ride grant agreement.

Agenda Items for October 14: In addition to the items on every agenda (Road Foreman's Report, minutes, mail, orders, other business), the following items will be on the agenda -

- Town Garage advisory group update
- Jerusalem Schoolhouse
- Purchase of tables and chairs for elections to be stored at Robinson School

The final agenda will be posted at least 48 hours before the meeting

The next meeting will be on October 14th. November meetings will be on the 11th and 18th, which are the second and third Tuesdays. (November 4 is election day.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jefferies