

Town of Williamstown
WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023
SELECTBOARD MEETING
7:00 P.M.
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

MEMBERS: **RODNEY GRAHAM**
 JASMINE COULLIARD
 CLAYTON WOODWORTH
 CHRIS PELOQUIN
 CHRIS WADE

TOWN MANAGER – JACQUELINE HIGGINS

SELECTBOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER:

SET THE AGENDA:

REVIEW OF OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

SELECTBOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES/TRUSTEES/OTHER BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

APPROVE WARRANTS: SB22027, SB22028, SB22029 AND PAYROLL WARRANT 1/15/23, 1/29/23 & 2/12/23

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINTUES: 1/9/23

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:

NEW BUSINESS:

HIGH STREET BIDS (3)

AINSWORTH LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT FUNDS UPDATE

SELECTBOARD EMAIL ADDRESSES

LISTER ERRORS AND OMMISIONS

LIQUOR LICENSES

PUMP AND PANTRY – 2ND CLASS AND TOBACCO

ROCK SOLID – 1ST AND 3RD CLASS

OLD BUSINESS:

AROUND THE TABLE:

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 V.S.A. SECTION 313 – IF NEEDED

ADJOURN

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 2/13/23

Richard P. Baker

George Carter

David Wild

Larry Hester

Mike MacAskill

Dusty Mills

Vaughan Martin

Lois Jessiman

Neh Duke + Horace Duke

Richard Cassidy

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 2/13/23

Judy MacCormack

Pete DeVeron

Cote + Aileen Briggs

Joe Plushinsky

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
February 13, 2023 – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Present: Jasmin Couillard, Clayton Woodworth, Rodney Graham, Chris Peloquin, Chris Wade

Town Manager, Jackie Higgins

Call to Order - Jasmin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Set the Agenda: Rodney made the motion to set the agenda. Clayton seconded. So moved.

Review of Open Public Comments

Selectboard Announcements: Chris W. spoke regarding JD Green and the Aired Out Podcast. JD helped to get the word out with the Warming Shelter in Williamstown at the Middle/High School with 9,792 people viewing the post.

Public Announcements: Mike MacAskill spoke regarding the alleged fight between Rodney and himself. Mike stated that he had spoken to Jasmin and asked questions about the situation. Mike questioned an from Rodney to the Selectboard. He asked for explanation and what was being “covered up” that Rodney had referred to in his email. William Graham stated that working with the Ambulance department, there are some issues that need to be addressed. That he personally requested Barre Town be available for backup. William also stated that the Ambulance needs to be toned twice for a “Lift Assist” call. Chris Dessereau asked how a towns person could get a copy of Selectboard emails, Jasmin said that they could be requested through the Town Manager.

Jackie stated that as Town Manager, she is on the email chain that goes to all of the Ambulance staff with schedule information. Also that the budget was set up with 6 – 20 Hour positions, only 5 have been filled. Rodney commented that the Selectboards in previous years have discussed issues with the Ambulance.

Chris Wade questioned Rodney as well regarding the email referencing his son.

Chris Peloquin shared his support for the Ambulance Director. Larry Hebert shared that it would be a good idea to look into the situation and create a better system.

Sheriff George Contois spoke and introduced himself to the Selectboard and Town attendees. He stated that the contract with Williamstown is very important to the Orange County Sheriff’s Office.

Commissions/Committees/Trustees/Other Board Announcements:

WRB will be hosting Family Sledding Event at the High School Field on February 18th, as well as Bingo Night at the Elementary School on February 18th. The WRB has reached out and requested bids from local contractors for the Pavilion project and hope to be able to present to the Selectboard soon.

Cote Griggs from WYSA spoke regarding the recent bids for lighting at Saldi Field. Cote presented costs and fees that that come in with the possible project. WYSA will be requesting ARPA funding for the project.

Approve Payroll Warrant and SB Warrants: Chris P. made the motion to approve the warrants SB22027, SB22028, SB22029, Payroll 1/15/2023, 1/29/2023, 2/12/2023. Clayton seconded. So moved.

Selectboard Meeting Minutes: Chris P. made the motion to approve Minutes from SB Meeting 1/9/2023 as written. Clayton seconded. So moved.

Town Manager's Report: See attached.

New Business:

High Street Bids: Bids from three different local businesses were delivered to the Town Manager for the bidding process.

Avery Excavation \$175,830 K. Bellavance \$144,760 Hebert Excavation \$193,835

After some discussion of the three bids, Chris P. made the motion to select K. Bellavance with the bid of \$144,760. Clayton seconded. So moved.

Ainsworth Public Library: Rich Cassidy, the legal counsel for the Library spoke on behalf of the Library regarding an Agreement between the Library and the Town. Chris P. made the motion to table the discussion until the Selectboard is able to review the agreement for the next meeting. Clayton seconded. So moved.

Fire Department Account Funds/Policy: Jackie reported that the accounts have been closed, the records and funds have been given to the Town Treasurer for proper accounting. Current balance for the Friends of the Fire Department Fund is \$8,187.32.

Selectboard Email Addresses: Discussion over the current email addresses for the Selectboard that were set up and aren't being used, Chris P. made the motion to ask each individual if they wanted to use the Williamstownvt.org email address or continue to use their personal email account. Clayton seconded. So moved.

Lister – Errors & Omissions: Megan Keys reported that the removal of Current Use parcels on the Errors and Omissions would increase the Grand List by \$1,226.00. Chris P. made the motion to accept and approve the Errors and Omissions presented on January 4, 2023. Clayton seconded. So moved. Jasmin abstained.

Liquor Licenses: Pump & Pantry – 2nd Class & Tobacco

Rock Solid – 1st Class & 3rd Class

Chris P. made the motion to approve the Liquor Licenses. Rodney seconded. Clayton abstained.

Around the Table:

Rodney questioned the Australian ballot floor vote on the Warning. Jackie advised him that she had sought advice from VLCT regarding the proper protocol.

He then stated that he has enjoyed most of his time on the Selectboard, but that this last year has been hell. He said that the whole year was wasted, and the board didn't achieve anything. Chris P. thanked Rodney for his service and Gordon Murray, and David Wilder as well for his service to the town.

Executive Session:

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:09pm by Chris P. Clayton seconded. So moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Keys

Jasmin Couillard

Clayton Woodworth

Chris Peloquin

Rodney Graham

Chris Wade