

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
March 1, 2010

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Waitsfield Town Office. Present were Selectboard members Kate Williams (Chair), Charlie Hosford (Vice-Chair), Paul Hartshorn, Bill Parker, and Sal Spinosa; Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Town Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Peterson; Darryl Forrest, Peter Joslin.
- II. **Public Forum.** No one was present for the Public Forum.
- III. **Regular Business.**
 1. **Town Meeting preparations.** Mr. Joslin expressed his appreciation for the mention in the Town Report.

Mr. Joslin reviewed the order in which items will be taken up and related procedures, starting with the reports of boards for 2009. The proposal to replace the 2002 Low Profile Truck was discussed and it was agreed that the reference to the Heavy Equipment Reserve Fund on page 62 should be the Truck Reserve Fund.

Ms. Capels noted that a correction was made to the budget after the Selectboard's last review of the spreadsheet in January that increased the final budget figure by \$200. One organization under Special Appropriations was as zero when, in fact, they had submitted their request in writing and an

Warning articles were reviewed and discussed. Related to Article 8, two properties are enrolled in the program and Ms. Capels will be prepared to speak to it.

There was considerable discussion about Article 10 and whether the loan figure should be listed as an expense in the budget. Ms. Capels and Ms. Peterson noted that in the past, only the debt payments from the authorized loan would be shown in subsequent budgets as an expense. The Wait House has its own ledger separate from the General Fund and it was agreed that income and expenses will be tracked in Wait House Maintenance Account.

Article 11 was discussed and it was agreed that Selectman Parker would speak to it. Selectwoman Williams cautioned about making references to a specific reduction in the tax rate. A number of other variables will affect the 2010 tax rate, including the April 2010 grand list value and the common level of appraisal (CLA). Ms. Capels conveyed the Auditor's recommendation that a separate article is not required each year to allocate funds to existing reserve funds if they are also shown in the proposed budget. Including the allocations in the budget that the voters approve is sufficient. Asked if a reserve fund ceases to exist if all the funds are expended, Mr. Joslin suggested keeping a balance of \$1 rather than draw it to zero.

Article 14 was discussed. There was agreement that the inclusion of Article 12 in the budget on page 47 was an error and should be removed from the final budget figure.

Ms. Capels conveyed Leo Laferriere's observation of the discrepancy in the Auditor's report on page 2 and lack of the Auditor's Report on page 78.

Selectwoman Williams suggested asking the question at Town Meeting about changing the start time of next year's Annual Meeting to 9:00 a.m.

2. **Minutes of February 8, and February 22, 2010, if available.** Selectman Hartshorn moved to accept the February 8, 2010 minutes with one correction that Cheryl's last name is Allen. Selectman Hosford seconded the motion. All were in favor.
 3. **Bills payable & Treasurer's warrants.** There were no warrants to sign.
 4. **Selectboard roundtable. Orchard Grant.** Selectman Hosford reported that Waitsfield's application was accepted for the next round of competition. On-line voting will begin on March 15. Five municipalities will be selected per month for five months.
 5. **Town Administrator's report.** Ms. Capels explained that she enclosed the generator protocol in the meeting envelope because Selectman Hosford had requested a copy and she thought it might be of interest regarding Article 12. It was noted that the Selectboard adopted the protocol when Selectman Spinosa was not on the board, but the document was updated to include his name when two copies were re-sent to the new Elementary School principal for adoption by the new school board.
- IV. **Other Business.** Selectwoman Williams encouraged Selectboard members to contact Ms. Capels with any questions or concerns needed to be addressed at the March 1st meeting with regard to preparation for Town Meeting.

Mr. Forrest noted that he spoke with Mr. Sharkey who asked if the Selectboard has considered sending a letter to Nolan Kasper recognizing his participation in the 2010 Winter Olympics. Selectman Hosford noted that Ms. Compton and Mr. Ralves, other members of the USA Olympic team, also resided in the Valley for a period of time. Selectman Spinosa noted that by sending out a letter to one member could inadvertently cause the Selectboard to overlook others. Selectman Hartshorn suggested generically acknowledging Vermont and specifically Valley participants in the 201 Winter Olympics could be done at Town Meeting.

There was discussion about the status of the water project and questions that might arise at Town Meeting. There was agreement that it will be important to secure control of the well as a long-term asset. It was agreed that many of the issues and more will be discussed at the up-coming infrastructure summit.

- V. **Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Capels
Town Administrator