

Waitsfield Town Administrator's Report

November 22 2008

November 24 Meeting Agenda and Materials

- Item II.2 Water project discussion re. Slow Road alignment alternative and contract details: John Kiernan. John Kiernan reported that he had time pressures this week that interfered with his ability to complete the material he expected to provide in advance for our review. He may try to e-mail the information to those of you with e-mail. In any case, he will need to present the information at the meeting.
- Item II.3. Consideration of request by Brian Fleisher for Energy Tax Stabilization on Town Meeting Warning. Enclosed is a request from Brian Fleisher to include tax stabilization on the Town Meeting Warning in support of renewable energy investments. He will be present to describe his request.
- Item II.4 Town Pond Engineering Update: Kenneth Bisceglia. Enclosed are the plans for rehabilitation of the Town pond prepared by Shawn Patenaude before he left Weston and Sampson. Also enclosed is a memo from Ken Bisceglia that I received on Friday afternoon. He will be present at the meeting to provide more detail.
- Item II.5. Consideration of request by the Rotary Club for "You Bet Your Ice" sign, lighting, and outhouse at Town Pond. Enclosed is a request from the Rotary Club for this year's You Bet Your Ice promotion. A floodlight was installed last year on the Green Mountain Power pole to illuminate the pond without prior discussion. After concerns were expressed at that time from a neighboring property owner, the Selectboard allowed the light as long as it was turned off immediately after the event was completed.
- Item II.6 Consideration of request to add item to Town Meeting Warning to increase the property tax exemption for disabled veterans from \$10,000 to \$40,000. Enclosed is a request to increase the property tax exemption for disabled veterans. According to the 2008 Grand List, four taxpayers applied for this benefit this year. Taxpayers are required to apply each year and the number may increase or decrease from year to year.
- Item II.7. Minutes of March 24, August 25, October 27, October 30, and November 10, 2008, if available. Enclosed are the Nov. 10 minutes and flip chart notes from the Oct. 27 forum. I thought I was done with the Oct. 30 minutes but noticed at the last minute that a section was missing. The August 25 summit and Oct. 27 forum are still in the process of being summarized in the form of minutes. I hoped to have the Oct. 27 notes more fully summarized before posting and sending the set out to the business community.

Water Project Updates

- Sent a postcard to Old County Road residents informing them of the archaeology and wetlands work underway for the week of Nov. 17.
- Paul Giuliani is back in the office part-time and I contacted him about getting the water line easement buttoned up.
- Continue to follow up on the water connection agreements; still more to do.

Road Department Job Prospects

Eight applications have been received and a third candidate was interviewed on Friday. This topic will be discussed as a personnel matter in the executive session.

Planning Commission Zoning Revisions Schedule

Enclosed is the Planning Commission's draft of proposed zoning revisions and their December 2, 2008 public hearing notice. They hope to receive Selectboard member and staff comments at that point rather than later so comments can be incorporated into the draft that would then be transmitted to the Selectboard.

Also enclosed is a copy of 24 VSA S4441, which was amended last year to allow Selectboards the option of placing bylaw amendments before voters without the need for a petition or forfeiting the Selectboard's authority to continue to adopt zoning bylaws or subdivision regulations at a regular meeting following a public hearing. To help get a sense of a potential review and adoption schedule, it would be worthwhile to get a sense of whether the Selectboard would be inclined to place the proposed revisions before voters at Town Meeting or to exercise its authority to adopt such regulations at a regular meeting following a duly noticed public hearing.

Health Insurance Rate Increases

I attended a meeting of the VLCT Health Trust this week, at which they presented the grim news of the increased rates for all the health insurance products they offer. I will go through this in more detail when we discuss benefits and insurance during budget workshops. The table below shows a quick comparison, but does not reflect actual costs to the town (lower) due to employee contributions toward the premium at the different levels. Although the HSAs experienced the largest rate of increase, it remains the least-cost option of all the coverage options.

VLCT HSA 1500	CIGNA Monthly Rate 1 Person	CIGNA Monthly Rate 2 Person	CIGNA Monthly Rate Family
2008	\$313.85	\$599.61	\$857.67
2009	\$471.48	\$801.52	\$1,178.71
Change	\$151.63 (50.2%)	\$201.91 (33.7%)	\$321.04 (37.4%)

Town Staff Schedules

- Vickie will be out of the office from Tuesday, Nov. 25 through Monday, Dec. 2.
- I will be out of the office Wednesday, Nov. 26 through Friday, Nov 28. The following week, I have meetings most of Thursday and Friday and plan to attend the Energy

Conference on Saturday, which means the meeting materials for Selectboard's Dec. 8 meeting will need to go out on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

- The Town Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28.

Town Report Preparations

In addition to taking time to catch up on various things these past weeks, I also took time to get a jump on Town Report, budget, and Town Meeting preparations. Requests have been steadily coming in for outside agency support. I've begun posting these to the on-line 2009 Annual Meeting page, which is where the 2008 Town Report will be posted:

<http://www.waitsfieldvt.us/annualmeeting/2009>

This will be a way to for citizens to review the background information of the many organizations whose annual reports are not included in the printed Town Report. I will be adding other Town Report sections as they come in so we can all see how things are progressing. I am also planning ahead to have photos and other graphic elements included this year, which we can do at no additional cost. I want to encourage all Town Report contributors to consider including some from of photo, image, or other graphic to liven up the pages. I also would like folks to be thinking of what the cover image should be.

We will again be using ReproDigital/Repographics of Williston to produce the Town Report, and I am taking steps to ensure that the formatting, loose pages, and tiny font challenges we experienced last year will not be repeated.

Dog Warden Report

Enclosed is a written summary of the Dog Warden's activities over the past months. I suggested to Marie that she consider writing a *brief summary* of the year's activities to be included in the Town Report. This would not only inform citizens of the Dog Warden's activities, which I do not know has been done before in the Town Report, but could be a way to provide useful information about the need to register dogs and the risks and impacts of dogs running loose.

Byways Kiosk

The zoning permit application was completed late this week to replace the State information kiosk at the General Wait House with the new Byways kiosk built by Yestermorrow. The State removed their kiosk already, in large part because it was in poor condition. Vickie has not had a chance to review the application yet, so I may not know right away whether it can be approved administratively or whether additional review is required.

Upcoming Meetings & Workshops

Below are meetings that staff, board members, or others might be interested in:

- **Planning Commission- Zoning Revisions Public Hearing:** Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m., at the Town Office.
- **Community-Based Approaches to Energy & Climate Change:** Saturday, December 6, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at the Vermont Technical College. \$20. Register thru www.vlct.org.
- **Selectboard:** Monday, December 8, 7:30 p.m., at the Town Office.
- **Development Review Board:** Tuesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Town Office.

- ***Mad River Resource Management Association***: Monday, December 15, 5:00 p.m., at the Town Office.
- ***Municipal Zoning After September 1, 2011***: Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m., at the Vermont Interactive Television site in Waterbury. \$45. Register at www.vlct.org.
- ***MRVPD Steering Committee***: Thursday, December 18, 7:00 p.m., at the General Wait House.

Upcoming Agenda

The next regular Selectboard meeting is **Monday, December 8**. Potential additional agenda items include:

- Begin interviews with organizations seeking special appropriations in budget
- Update Rapid Response Plan?
- Business Community Forum follow-up updates
- Meeting with Good Beginnings representative?
- Continue thinking about Town Report dedication, Selectboard report, etc.
- Discuss upcoming meeting schedule
- Other stuff.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Capels
Town Administrator