DRAFT- 3/10/16

SELECTBOARD
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 29, 2016

PRESENT: Patty McGrath, Chairwoman
Chris Bianchi
Ken Lee

ALSO PRESENT: Dick Horner, Town of Killington (the "Town") Interim Manager (the "Manager"), Lucrecia Wonsor, Town Clerk, David Soucy, General Manager – Green Mountain National Golf Course

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Public Information Hearing for Town Meeting
4. Selectboard Member Concerns
5. Manager's Report
6. Other Business
7. Board of Liquor Control
8. Adjourn

1. CALLED TO ORDER

The Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Lee and seconded, the Agenda was unanimously APPROVED.

3. PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING FOR TOWN MEETING

Representative Job Tate detailed his priorities in Montpelier, including creating a sound and sustainable fiscal path, relieving the property tax burden, providing affordable, quality healthcare, promoting economic development, and reducing the burden on local governments.

Several residents asked questions regarding Act 46, unemployment data and loss of population, state budget and spending, the clean water bill, the effects of a bad ski season on the economy, and the carbon tax.

Vito Rasenas asked the Board about the change in the meeting's format. The Interim Manager explained that it was an informational meeting, which falls under the Select Board. Mr. Rasenas asked if the candidates for Select Board would have a chance to speak and noted that he felt that the change of format was an effort to have the meeting controlled by the Select Board.

Mr. Horner read the Public Information Hearing and Annual Town Meeting Warning. The Board opened the floor for questions.

Article 2: "Shall property taxes be paid in four installments: the first due August 15, 2016 and overdue subject to interest on August 25, 2016; the second due November 15, 2016 and overdue subject to interest on November 25, 2016; the third due February 15, 2017 and overdue subject to interest on February 25, 2017; the fourth due on May 15, 2017 with the total tax delinquent on May 25, 2017?"

The Chairwoman explained the reasons for changes in property tax payments with the change in fiscal year.

Roger Rivera asked how the change would affect the tax anticipation note and asked if it was more or less than last year, as well as the difference in dollars.

Article 3: "Shall the voters approve general fund expenditures of $4,155,339 of which $135,000 shall be applied from the 2015/16 general fund balance, $2,607,147 shall be raised by property taxes and $1,413,192 in estimated non-property tax revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016?"

Mr. Rasenas asked how voters were supposed to vote to apply a surplus when the Board is unsure of the final figure that will be available for use. He asked how the bad ski season and related options tax would affect the surplus.

The Chairwoman noted that they budgeted conservatively for the surplus and that the projected surplus was nearly two times the amount they are asking to apply to the general fund balance.

Mr. Rasenas also asked how there's a negative figure for interest earned for the Perry Film Restoration Fund. The Town Clerk noted it was an error.

Ed Fowler asked about a transfer to the capital reserve fund for Green Mountain National Golf Course, if the town has enough cash on hand to maintain operations, and why the Golf Course has a sum of $361,737 owed to the Town for start up expenses.

The Town Clerk noted that when the Town moved to a fiscal year, the Golf Course wanted to stay with a calendar year so the accounts had to be separated

out. She explained that the golf course has expenses to be paid prior to opening that were paid out of the general fund before the separation occurred. The Golf course will make transfers into the general fund to repay that amount.

Mr. Haff asked about the golf course being self sustaining and if it needed tax payers money.

Mr. Rivera asked why Golf revenues are down, expenses are up, but salaries are still going up.

Mr. Bianchi noted that the Town doesn't penalize employees for a bad season. Mr. Soucy noted that revenue was level with 2014, and their mission is to pay for operation expenses, capital, and send money back to the general fund. He explained that expenses are not up for the year, with the exception of a one time expense for fairway maintenance.

Mr. Fowler asked about a new system for electric carts and if the old carts are worthless. He also asked about employee benefits for the Golf Course and the money that was borrowed to repave Killington Road.

Mr. Fowler also asked if the Economic Development and Tourism Department has ever been audited and if the Town is leasing the Park & Ride from the Killington Pico Area Association.

The Chairwoman noted that EDT funds go into the general fund and because Park & Rides must be done through a municipality, the Town is leasing from the KPAA for $1/year.

Mr. Rasenas asked what percentage of the local options tax would the Board attribute to summer business being up due to the Resort's summer programming expansion. The Board noted it is impossible to measure the increase.

A question was raised if the Town pays for an employee to work at the "Chamber" (KPAA). The Chairwoman explained Amy Morrison's shared position between the Town and the KPAA, as well as the EDT's Assistant's position.

Mr. Haff asked about the capital highway paving plan and why section 2 of Killington Road has failed to meet standards since 2013. The Chairwoman noted that the Town is trying to complete the sidewalk and paving at the same time to save money.

Mr. Haff also asked about Ms. Morrison's position and hours and why the EDT Assistant's position was made full time if they're over at the Chamber as

well. Mr. Haff also asked if they work at the Town Hall anymore.

Mr. Rivera also noted his displeasure with the change in meeting format. He also asked about the summer camp partnership with Killington Resort and how the Town plans to do that if the Town doesn't fun its own infrastructure. He also asked why there isn't an article about the Fire Station on the warning.

The Chairwoman explained that the Board didn't want to put an article on the warning without due diligence and knowing what land would cost.

Article 4: "Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow $200,000 to fund the reconstruction of the library roof?"

Diane Rosenblum explained the need for a new roof at the Sherburne Memorial Library.

The Chairwoman explained that this project is already included in the Library capital plan and that voting yes will not increase taxes.

A question was raised about who the contractor would be, given the failure of the roof due to the last contractor.

Jake Hickory noted that he would not be willing to vote on reconstruction until he knew the contractor was credible. Mr. Bianchi noted a plan was presented at a Select Board meeting.

Mr. Rasenas noted that he supported the project and the importance of preserving the Town's infrastructure.

Article 5: "Shall the voters approve expenditures of $400 to fund the non-profit Child First Advocacy Center which supports the discovery, intervention, treatment and prevention of child abuse?"

The Chairwoman noted that this was the first request for this appropriation.

4. SELECTBOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Mr. Haff gave a presentation for his campaign for a seat on the Select Board. The Chairwoman, up for re-election, also spoke.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. BOARD OF LIQUOR CONTROL

A motion made by Mr. Lee and seconded to approve the Town Clerk to sign the 13 liquor licenses and renewals that were presented was APPROVED.

The Chairwoman recused.

8. ADJOURN

On motion made by Mr. Lee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.