

**Town of Readsboro
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
November 29, 2017**

Selectboard Present: Helyn Strom-Henriksen, Jim Franzinelli. David Marchegiani at 7:15 p.m.
Others present: Rebecca Stone, John Whitman, Eunice Crowell, Raymond Eilers, Forrest Hicks, Ted Hopkins, Larry Hopkins, Normajeane Marchegiani

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Additions/Deletions:

Jim made a motion to add the Lease Agreement between the Readsboro School District and the Town of Readsboro to the Agenda under New Business. Helyn seconded. So voted.

Approval of Agenda:

Helyn moved to accept the Agenda as amended. Jim seconded. So voted.

Reading & Approval of Records:

Helyn moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2017, as amended. Jim seconded. So voted.

Fiscal Matters:

A) Review of Budget Status Report

Checking balance	\$ 309,667.17
Owed to school FY 2016-2017	\$562,638.72
Water Account	\$63,822.66
Sewer Account	\$65,204.59
General Fund Balance	\$ (252,971.55)

Selectboard Administrative Report:

A) Updates

The Town Administrator notified the Selectboard that we are awaiting an agreement from the Windham Regional Commission for the Local Project Manager services for the Sidewalk Improvement Project since the current agreement expires in December.

Report of Town Administrator:

No report.

Old Business:

A) Tax Sale Update, Delinquent Tax Collector – Discussion & Action

Ted provided an update on legal fees related to holding a tax sale. Attorney Kevin O'Toole's rate is a \$600 minimum for each tax sale lot and Attorney Robert Fisher's rate is \$185.00 per hour. Ted commented that he feels the Delinquent Tax Collection Policy may need to be updated to ensure that amounts are satisfactory to entertain holding a tax sale and that Alpenwald lots could possibly be done as a separate tax sale. Since this time of year is not ideal to hold a tax sale, the consensus was that one may be held after July 2018.

B) Statewide Parcel Mapping Project Update – Discussion & Action

The Town Administrator explained that there are 3 items that are being requested from the mapping company: a copy of the 2012 digital parcel file, property updates since 2012, and a spreadsheet of the Grand List. The Town Administrator has requested the information from the Assessors Clerk and the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk has not replied or commented on any emails about the project and the Assessors Clerk has offered an opinion to the Selectboard on the items that are needed but has not produced the documents. The Town Administrator has researched with surrounding towns that are participating in this mapping project and all have said that either the Lister/Assessor or the Town Clerk is gathering the information for the mapping companies since they are the offices that deal with the property data throughout the year. After much discussion, the Selectboard directed the Town Administrator to get the information to the mapping company so that the project can move forward.

New Business:**A) Deerfield Wind, LLC Project – Discussion & Action**

In follow up to a recent meeting the Town Administrator informed the Selectboard that they will need to decide whether to place the Deerfield Wind Project on the Grand List or not. Becky has researched the issue with our Assessors Services firm and they have said that every other facility like this is included on the Grand List. David made a motion to put the Deerfield Wind Project on the Grand List. Helyn seconded. So voted. Discussed the anticipated mid-December operational date and the payment schedule for the project. Becky will be following up with counsel regarding the schedule for payments.

B) Vermont Route 100 Safety Concerns – Discussion & Action

An email was received from Ruth O'Hearn concerning the safety along Vermont Route 100 after a recent collision with an oversized load with a vehicle that resulted in the vehicle being pinned up against the guardrail. The Selectboard will be sending a letter to the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles to ask for their support in denying future oversized load permits to be issued by the DMV due to the extremely narrow sections of Vermont Route 100 in Readsboro.

C) Bennington County Sheriff's Office Contract Renewal – Discussion & Action

Discussed the Bennington County Sheriff's contract for the second half of FY18 since the current contract ends on December 31, 2017. Helyn shared there has been a great presence in the community and in the school. Residents asked what the Sheriff's office has been doing. Jim said that they have been highly visible and residents are happy with the police presence. Both day and night patrols are being conducted. Helyn said the Sheriff's office has also been conducting safety checks with residents. The Selectboard indicated they intend to enter into an agreement with the Bennington County Sheriff's office for FY19 after the Annual Town Meeting. An inquiry to revenues was raised and the Selectboard will get an answer. Increased patrol along a section of road in town was requested by a resident in order to curb speeding and will be followed up. Jim made a motion to enter into a contract for Law Enforcement Services with the Bennington County Sheriff's office for January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018. Helyn seconded. So voted.

D) Selectboard Meeting Schedule – Discussion & Action

The Selectboard set the December meeting schedule as follows: December 6th and December 20th at 7:30 p.m. for budget work sessions; and December 13th and December 27th for their regular meetings.

E) Lease Agreement between the Readsboro School District and the Town of Readsboro

Helyn made a motion to sign 1-year Lease Agreement between the Readsboro School District and the Town of Readsboro. Jim seconded. So voted.

Hearing of Visitors:

John Whitman offered comments on the Windham Regional Commission’s draft Regional Energy Plan. The Selectboard will take his opinion into consideration.

Larry Hopkins stated that Amber needs to know the decision about the Grand List related to the windmill project. Helyn to follow up with Amber. Larry asked what will happen with the revenues from the project. The Selectboard indicated that the use of the revenues will be decided by the voters through town meeting.

David indicated that the heater needs to be replaced at the Transfer Station and that the Transfer Station is staying cleaned up.

Fiscal Matters:

Board reviewed mail & signed warrants.

Helyn moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. David seconded. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Stone, Town Administrator
November 29, 2017