

UNDERHILL SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Present: Steve Walkerman, SB Chair; Dan Steinbauer, SB; Steve Owen, SB; Joan Lehouiller, Town Treasurer; Sherri Morin, Town Clerk; Chris Murphy, Town Administrator

6:00 PM: Meeting Called to Order

- **Orders Signed**
- **Minutes** from 12/28/07 are read and accepted
- **New Road Gravel Pit:** Carolyn Gregson, Dick and Barb Albertini, Guests. Dick, Barb and Carolyn discuss with the Board their proposal to sell the Town 24 acres of land they own on New Road for the Town to use as a gravel pit. Rod Fuller, highway foreman has done some test pits and estimates between 400,000-5000,000 cubic yards of gravel. This would have to be verified by an engineer prior to the Town seriously considering a proposal, but Gregson and the Albertinis' are hesitant to commit funds to engineering studies without an indication from the Town that this project is feasible. The Board decides, after discussion, to use Rod's rough estimate of materials to start making a determination of the cost of such a purchase. Chris and Rod will get estimates on the worth of in-ground gravel and sand. This will be added to the estimated re-sale value of the land, to arrive at a working price for the Selectboard to use at Town Meeting to begin discussion with community members to gauge whether there is interest in pursuing this option any further.
- **Dog Complaint:** Jennifer Silpe, Town Animal Control Officer, Jason Gaudio and Cindy Cross-Greenia, Mullen Road neighbors, Guests. Jennifer discusses with the Board, Jason, and Cindy a plan to address Cindy's complaints about Jason's dogs worrying her donkeys. The statute regarding shooting dogs and the Underhill Animal Control Ordinance is clarified for both Jason and Cindy. After discussion, all parties agree that Jason will register his dogs; that a clean slate will be established wherein Jason's dogs will stay off Cindy's property and on their own property unless accompanied and under the control of their owners; if the dogs occasionally (once every six months or thereabout) escape Cindy will call the owners. If the dogs are on Cindy's property more than that, then Jennifer will proceed to enforce the Ordinance. Jason apologizes to the Board, Jennifer and Cindy.

7:15 PM: Executive Session: Upon a motion the Board moves into Executive Session on a personnel matter.

7:45 PM: End Executive Session. The Board moves out of executive session and agrees to give Rod Fuller, Highway Foreman a \$1.00/hr raise above the cost of living increase in the proposed FY08-09 budget.

- **Budget Review:** The Board reviews the budget with Sherri, Joan and Chris. COLA numbers will not be released until 1/16/08. Chris will put in the final salary numbers then and email the final budget revision

to the Board for approval. The budget must be turned in to the Auditors by Friday, 1/18/08. There may be one or two other final adjustments, but the budget is pretty well set at this point, with a relatively low projected increase.

- **Town Meeting Items:** The Board reviews a letter from Bill Wilson, Moderator. Chris will ask him to come to the next Board meeting on 1/24/08 to go over Town Meeting articles. The Board reviews, edits, and signs the official Town Meeting warning. The Board reviews and decides not to adopt the VT Coalition of Municipalities Resolution.
- **Grant Updates:** Chris reports to the Board that she was completely skunked on all the grant applications she submitted this fall. The submitted historic preservation grant and ancient road grants were the latest grants denied.
- **Energy and Trails Committees:** The Board approves establishment of an energy committee and a trails committee. The Board had discussed last fall establishing a trails committee, a project that was put on hold during budget preparation. The Board will appoint 2 members from the Planning Commission; 2 members from the Conservation Commission; 2 members from the Recreation Committee, the Town Administrator; and 2 community members to the Trails Committee. If there are not enough willing members from current town boards/committees/commissions then the Board will fill in with community members. The initial task of the trails committee is to gather information from state regulatory agencies and other interest groups to come up with a plan for using trails on Town land. After that, the Committee may want to explore the possibility, in conjunction with other Town Boards/Commissions the establishment of a town trail system.

The Energy Committee will consist of up to 7 interested community members, initially assisted by the Town Administrator. Other communities that have energy committees have done some innovative projects such as a light-bulb exchanges, and wind and hydro projects. Chris will advertise for volunteers to fill positions for both committees in early February.

- **Schedule:** Chris reviews with the Board the schedule for project completion for projects that have been back-burned during the budget/grant writing season. Kari is working on reconstructing the web-site; Chris and Sherri will complete the EOP by the end of January; and Chris will complete the employee handbook revisions so that they can be approved by the end of February, early March.
- **Browns River Watershed Wetlands Restoration Project:** The Board agrees to support the wetlands restoration program. This is a voluntary, non-regulatory government program that will educate municipal and private landowners about funding opportunities for restoration programs.

- **Certificate of Highway Mileage:** The Board certifies the Town's highway mileage for AOT. It has not changed from last year.

9:15 PM: The Board Adjourns

Respectfully submitted by Chris Murphy
Read and Approved as written/as amended

Stephen Walkerman, Chair