

UNDERHILL SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Thursday, December 28, 2007

Present: Steve Walkerman, SB Chair; Dan Steinbauer, SB; Steve Owen, SB; Chris Murphy, Town Administrator

6:00 PM: Meeting Called to Order

- **Orders Signed**
- **Minutes** from 12/13/07 are read and accepted
- **VLCT Insurance:** Ken Canning, Chris Laberge, and Larry Smith from VLCT discuss with the Board our current insurance coverages with VLCT. Marketplace Insurance had come in with a competitive bid. Ken Canning explains where VLCT coverage may differ from what Marketplace has offered, for instance, VLCT offers flood coverage. We're not sure whether flood coverage is included in the Marketplace proposal. In addition, if we stay with VLCT we have sovereign immunity defense to any claim, a defense we lose if we go with Marketplace as they are a commercial carrier. Ken also discusses a trend that he has found with the accident coverage: it seems that most of the claims are caused by one town truck running into another town truck or a town building. This could be addressed through additional training, provided at no cost by VLCT. The Town could also improve their rating if we took advantage of the offered trainings and were more diligent in getting inspections after property improvements are made.

After the VLCT representatives leave, the Board discusses whether to stay with VLCT or to switch to Marketplace Insurance. A decision as to coverage must be made by 12/31/07 as that is when our current VLCT coverage expires. Marketplace has offered coverage at roughly \$5,000 less; however, they have failed to provide a copy of the proposed policy, so it is difficult to compare coverages. The Board decides to stay with VLCT for this year, but will continue to pursue additional information from Marketplace as to their coverage. The Town will also pursue training and other options to improve their ratings in hopes of getting offered lower rates next year.

- **VSP Vision Benefit:** The vision benefit approved on 12/13/07, runs on a calendar year. The Board had approved paying 50% of the cost in next year's budget; however, this does not take effect until 7/1/08. Chris asks the Board if they would like the employee's to pay for the full benefit for the first 6 months of 2008, with the Town picking up the full benefit (hence 50% of the cost in 2008) for the last six months. After brief discussion, the Board decides to pay for half of the benefit starting in January, 08. Total annual cost to the Town for this benefit is \$861.22.
- **Road Crew:** Nate Sullivan and Larry Lamphere from the road crew come in to discuss salaries with the Board. They comment that Rod Fuller, Highway Foreman, does not communicate with them. The Board

informs the road crew that they are getting a 3-3.5% cost of living increase this year, as is everyone else that works for the Town. The Board is also considering putting incentive money into their budget to improve job performance. This lump-sum performance award would be awarded based on each individual's improvement over the year. The crew also asks about the lights on the roads near the schoolhouse on Pleasant Valley Road, the bridge on River Road near Range Road, and on Park Street. They state that the lights are dim or out. Chris will call CVPS to check on the light repair. Finally, the Board discusses with Nate and Larry the Town Shed. The leaking roof is only getting worse, repairs done to stacks last year were never completed, the insulation is soaked, and the foam that DEW sprayed as an attempt to fix the venting problem has been determined to be hazardous in a fire. Chris will pull together all the information we have relative to DEW and will then forward it to Vince Paradis for an opinion as to how to proceed.

- **FOG:** Steve W. gives a brief update on the fiber optic workgroup. They are beginning to have discussions with Champlain Valley Telecom out of Waitsfield. Champlain Valley is currently in Richmond. Burlington Telecom is still not ready to extend services further. At any rate, it will be a while before high-speed internet access will available at a reasonable cost to many residents of the Pleasant Valley area of town. Steve states that we should appoint 3 members to the permanent FOG committee. Possible members are discussed.
- **Schedule:** The Board will meet next on Wednesday, 1/9/08 to finalize the budget and to meet with Dick Albertini and Carolyn Gregson to discuss the potential gravel pit on New Road.

8:35 PM: The Board Adjourns

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

Stephen Walkerman, Chair