

## UNDERHILL SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Thursday January 18, 2006, 6:00 PM

Present: Marc Maheux, Chair; Steve Walkerman, Dan Steinbauer, Chris Murphy, Town Administrator.

This meeting was taped by Mt Mansfield Community TV

### **6:00 PM: Meeting is Called to Order**

- **Accepting Postmarks for Town Taxes**, Joan Lehoullier, Guest: Chris reads a short memo from the Betsy Page and Irene Linde, Town Auditors, inquiring about postmarks, what other towns do and how the question of whether the Town should accept postmarks can be resolved. The Board discusses with Joan the possibility of accepting postmarks for tax payments. Joan states that she accepted postmarks years ago, but then it became a problem. She states that other towns that accept postmarks only go delinquent at the end of the last quarter of the year. After discussion, the Board declines to put a postmark question on the ballot.
- **New Town Truck**: The Board discusses the necessity of purchasing a new town truck. Marc notes that by statute the Selectboard can opt to buy Public Works budget equipment without voter approval. Marc moves to put the following item on the Australian Ballot for Town meeting day: "Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to spend the 06-07 surplus for the purchase of a new town truck." The motion passes unanimously.
- **Water Discharge Dispute, Bill Russell and Tim Reny, Guests**: Bill Russell and Tim Reny ask the Board how they can give permission to Ellen Eccleston, of 1 Beartown Road permission to put greywater in the river. Marc responds that the Selectboard has not given her permission, she has a pipe that is running out of her basement and the water ends up in the town culvert, but the SB has not given her permission to do so, and the pipe has been there for years. Marc also contests Russell's characterization of the water coming out of Eccleston's basement as "greywater". Marc says that the Town will take a test of the water discharging into the Town culvert.
- **Water Discharge Dispute, Ellen Eccleston Guest**: Ellen comes in at the end of Russell and Reny's testimony. She had received a note from Ted Cantwell, State of Vermont Water Quality Enforcement Officer, who Russell had contacted. Cantwell took a sample of the water and in his note to Eccleston noted that what the state is mostly concerned with is E-coli contamination, and that the state gets involved when the E-coli contamination rate is around 77/100 ml. Eccleston's water discharge tested out at 1/100ml, virtually uncontaminated. Upon further inquiry from the Board, Eccleston assured the Board that she is pumping ground water out of her

basement, not greywater. She explained that there is a French drain in the basement and the water is pumped out by sump pump to the pipe, and that this past summer Doug Boardman installed a permanent PVC pipe from the basement that slopes to the drainage ditch. Eccleston invites the Board to inspect the system, however the Board does not consider that necessary at this time, given the report of the Ted Cantwell.

- **Request for Funds for Jericho Tennis Courts:** Chris relays a request from Sue Vaughan to help fund tennis court maintenance at the Jericho Elementary School, as part of the Jericho-Underhill tennis group. The Selectboard decides that if a group wants funds for recreation activities, they should go through the Recreation Committee for funding. Chris will pass this on to Sue for next year.
- **Town Hall Well:** Chris reports that the water at the Town Hall has been brown and cloudy all week. Marc will do a coliform test and advises Chris to run the faucets the next day.
- **FOG:** Steve reports that the Town's cost for the survey that the Fiber Optic Work Group will contract for is \$1,500.00. A motion is made to expend \$1,500 to Samuel P. Osborne for the FPOG survey. The motion passes unanimously. Steve states that the survey will consist of approximately 150 calls made to Underhill residents, to gauge the need and ability to pay for fiber optic services.
- **Mailbag:** The Board reviews mail.

**8:20PM:** **Executive Session:** The Board enters into Executive Session to discuss the budget.

**9:03 PM** **The Board adjourns.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Murphy  
Town Administrator  
Read and Approved as presented/as amended

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Chairman

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Date