

Select Board Meeting

Town Office at School

06 Sept 2022 @5:00 pm

Present: R.Spaulding P. Zera (via Zoom), M. Graziano, M. Labrecque, S Noble, D. Spaulding, J. Tuck, A. Jobin-Picard, S. Turner, M. Donoghue, P. Brzozwy, A. Hall, G. Rafferty, D. Beckett, C. Andrews, S. Jensen, C. Tudhope

Meeting called to order by Chair R. Spaulding at 5:03 pm.

1. Additions/Deletions to Agenda: Vermont Electric Coop, C. Tudhope requested time at next meeting to discuss preserving identities of crime victims. R. Spaulding stated that this should be an agenda item at the next meeting, but will give her a minute to describe what she wants to discuss.
2. Executive Session : Not needed.
3. Retraction of statement by board to comply with Open Meeting Law: Chair Spaulding stated that any mention made of withdrawal of names from the minutes cannot be done, we will be more careful next time. There is no guarantee of privacy at a public meeting. Hopefully this will satisfy the NEFAC (New England First Amendment Coalition) and the NAACP, and anyone else who is concerned. We have apologized and put back any names that were removed. Mary Catherine Graziano clarified that the town attorney did not say to do that (correct the minutes), and that the letter from the attorney indicated that no further actions needed to be taken. Discussion between M. Graziano and R. Spaulding about the timing of the Attorneys letter and the editing of the minutes. M. Graziano noted that she spoke with the NRCP, and was provided with a list of the elements of a meeting required in the minutes. The crime victims name did not need to be in the minutes. She admitted to not being clear and apologized to the NEFAC. She is asking that crime victims identities remain anonymous, states that she feels there was no Open Meeting violation, and apologized again. R. Spaulding read the statement from M. Graziano that the NEAFC took exception to. M. Graziano replied that she will be more clear in the future and that she took the Open Meeting Law training. Discussion between M. Graziano and R. Spaulding concerning removing the name of the victims from the minutes. R. Spaulding stated that at this point everyone knows about the situation. S. Jensen stated that as these are public documents, it has not of late been the practice to directly quote the participants, and that she feels the town could potentially face a lawsuit. M. Donoghue stated that the law says the minutes are to give a true indication of the meeting and that VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) suggests that more information than what M. Graziano outlined earlier be included. P. Brzozwy pointed out that the Zoom recording of the meetings is on the town website the day after the meeting, so protecting the identity of the victims is moot at this time. R. Spaulding indicated that they will check on the legality of everything for next meeting.
4. Approval of revised minutes: S. Jensen inquired as to the possibility of moving the Zoom recording from the front page of the website to the minutes page after the next meeting. R. Spaulding and S. Noble confirmed that this could be done. Motion to approve minutes of 01 August 2022 meeting made by M. Graziano, second by P. Zera. All in favor.
5. Warrants for payroll and payables:

8/2/22 payroll \$2003.30 ratification of P. Zera's signature motion by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.

8/17/22 payroll \$1688.38 ratification of P. Zera's signature motion by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.

8/30/22 payroll \$1777.92 ratification of P. Zera's signature motion by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.

8/24/22 payable \$15320.69 ratification of P. Zera's signature motion by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.

8/24/22 EFT (IRS) \$656.21 ratification of P. Zera's signature motion by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.

9/6/22 RFT (IRS) \$ 301.92 ratification of P. Zera's signature motion by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.

9/6/22 payable \$420,017.21 motion to approve by M. Graziano, second by P Zera. All in favor. \$414,500 went to CIUUSD, \$3192 to Sheriffs Department, \$1787 for culvert and stone.

6. Monthly Budget and Balance Sheet: R. Spaulding discussed with S. Noble as to why Ditching and Culverts shows \$4,000 budgeted and \$15975 had been spent. She replied that \$4,000 has been refunded to the credit card, and the remaining \$11,975 will be covered by a grant.
7. Authorization to approve orders: Motion made to authorize any single Select Board member to approve warrants and ratify at meetings made by M. Graziano, second by P. Zera. All in favor.
8. Meeting Protocol: Discussion between M. Graziano and R. Spaulding about this policy which was adapted from North Hero's policy. M. Graziano did not feel policy should have been posted on website without select board agreement. Board Clerk M. LaBrecque countered that public input is not required for a policy, as is required for an ordinance. Further discussion between M. Graziano, R. Spaulding, and S. Jensen. M. Graziano listed numerous changes that she would like to see included. R. Spaulding suggested she make her suggestions and repost on the web site. Motion to post draft made by P. Zera, second by M. Graziano. All in favor.
9. Road Commissioner report: R. Spaulding commented that paving job looked good. S. Turner replied that with money left over he would like the striping to be done before winter, which cost \$.22 per foot. Going forward, he would like to pave Main St from Quarry Rd to start of West Shore Rd. The next culvert he would like to replace is at the end of School St where West Shore Rd intersects. He also indicated that he was pleased with the paving job. A. Jobin-Picard commented that the corner turn at the end of Main St. is dangerous, and discussion between R. Spaulding, A. Jobin-Picard and S. Turner ensued. M. Graziano thanked S. Turner for the work done, and asked about a plan to deal with the Poplar trees along the sea wall. R. Spaulding provided some additional information and S. Turner indicated that J. Yartz feels the trees will not be a problem. M. Graziano inquired if the paving job exceeded the grant money, S. Turner responded that it will not. C. Andrews inquired as to where the speed limit sign was. S. Turner replied that numerous speed limit signs have been stolen, and many are outdated. He will be proposing that the signs be replaced town-wide. C. Andrews and S. Turner discussed the speeding on Main St. P. Brzozwy commented on the great paving job and that the repeated discussions around these poplar trees are moot.

10. Approve lot sale : Discussion about closing date and which lot is being sold between S. Turner and R. Spaulding. C. Tudhope inquired what the sale price was and how much of the proceeds would go to the trustees. R. Spaulding responded that they were sold for \$35,000 (asking price) and that everything after the closing costs would go to the trustees. The town paid \$50,000 for the lots. Motion to approve sale by M. Graziano, second by P. Zera. All in favor.
11. Rec. Dept waivers for use: The directors of the Rec Park have come up with a waiver for individuals to sign before using the park, and have them stored at the Town Office. A. Jobin-Picard also commented that the Rec Park had a successful summer and they were trying to schedule activities using the school building for fall. M. Graziano suggested the attorney review the waiver. S. Noble replied that she had the insurance company review it. There was discussion about the insurance for using the school and R. Spaulding indicated that he would like to vote on buying the school in March.
12. Diversity & Inclusion Policy: Over 60 towns have adopted this policy. R. Spaulding read policy (see attachments) Motion to approve by M. Graziano, second by P. Zera. All in favor.
13. Errors & Omissions: Lister M. LaBrecque listed two items: Tony Yandow camp was removed last year from Sunset Rock, had a value of \$23,400. Carol Charest 1980 trailer was destroyed last year. It is being removed. Trailer, water, septic are located on mothers property, with a value of \$11,900. C. Tudhope inquired as to why this is not an abatement. Discussion between D. Spaulding, M. LaBrecque about what constitutes an abatement. The errors and omissions form is signed by the selectboard, listers, and Town Clerk. M. LaBrecque explained that between the time the Grand List is lodged and 31 December is the only time that Errors & Omissions is used. Motion to approve by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.
14. NWFx (North West Fiber Worx) update: NWFx was partnering with LaMoille CUD, however a flaw in the business model was uncovered.
15. Approval to specifically use Stitzel, Page, and Fletcher for the tax sale process: Motion to approve using Stitzel, Page, and Fletcher for the Tax sale process made by M. Graziano, second by P. Zera. All in favor.
16. Other Business: Vermont Electric Coop. If the town changed to LED streetlights it would save the town \$27 a month in electricity. Efficiency Vt will pay \$100 of the \$175 fee to remove the existing streetlights. R. Spaulding indicated that he was told it will take 11 months to break even on the street lights and that he put us on the list for the changeover. Motion to approve by M. Graziano, second by P. Zera. All in favor. C. Tudhope commented on adopting a policy to keep crime victims' identities anonymous. R. Spaulding replied that he will get a legal opinion. J. Tuck requested permission to decorate the old Town Hall for Halloween. The Haunted Library will be on Sat 01 Oct.
17. Motion to adjourn at 6:32 made by M. Graziano, second by P. Zera. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary LaBrecque
Selectboard Clerk

Rusty Spaulding

Paul Zera

Mary Catherine Graziano

TOWN OF ISLE LA MOTTE DECLARATION OF INCLUSION

“The Town of Isle La Motte condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or disability, and will protect these classes to the fullest extent of the law” “As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all forms and commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community” “The Town of Isle La Motte has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.”

Paul Zera



Mary Catherine Graziano



Rusty Spaulding – Chair

9/6/22

Date



NORTHWEST FIBERWORX

153 N. Main Street
PO Box 1028
St. Albans, VT 05478

802 489 7685 📞
info@nwcud.com ✉️
nwfiberworx.com 🌐

Date: August 25, 2022
To: NWFx Communities
From: Sean Kio, NWFx Executive Director
Subject: Status Update

Dear Community Boards, Managers, and Members,

NWFx would like to provide our member communities with a quick update. NWFx continues to move forward with its plan to bring broadband availability and affordability to our district. Despite a recent setback, much of our work and business assets created over the last two years remain valuable, meaning we do not need to start over.

In November 2021, NWFx aligned our organization with a neighboring CUD, Lamoille Fibernet, intending to attract and secure a 30-year “anchor tenant” agreement with Google Fiber. We were close to finalizing the deal when we were notified that the financial viability of Lamoille Fibernet was of concern. As a result, the Google Fiber proposal proved unsustainable. Unfortunately for NWFx, a key provision in the Google Fiber agreement is a minimum location (homes & businesses) count that we do not meet independently of Lamoille.

So, what now? In a nutshell, negotiations with Google Fiber have come to an end. While this is disappointing, we are still actively moving forward.

Rest assured that NWFx staff and your appointed governing board representatives are hard at work pushing forward with a broadband solution that will bring significant changes to our communities. NWFx has made great strides over the last two years and continues working towards our fundamental goal to build, own, and maintain an FTTP (Fiber-to-the-Premise) open-access network. This network will create a marketplace for retail ISPs, telehealth providers, 5G providers, enterprises, schools, towns, and/or other entities.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions. We look forward to sharing more of our progress in the future.

All the best,

Sean Kio – NWFx Executive Director