

Town of Woodbury Select Board

January 27, 2025

Draft Meeting Minutes

Select Board (WSB) Members: Lizzy Higgins; Diana Peduzzi; Chris Casey

Town Officials: Robin Durkee – Town Clerk; Skip Lindsay – Recovery Officer;

Town Employees: Alfred Larrabee – Road Commissioner; Michael Gray – WSB Assistant/Scribe

Members of the Public: Nathan Sicard – Civil Engineer, Ruggles Engineering Services

Media: Jerome Lipani - Hardwick Community Television (Meeting can be viewed at hctv.us or Channel 1080)

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Adjustments to Agenda: Appoint new treasurer; BRIC 2024 Buck Lake Brook Watershed Study

Minutes - 01/13/25 WSB meeting minutes and 01/21/25 WSB Special meeting minutes approved.

Public Comment –None

Town Clerk's Report: Robin received a call from Kim Silk requesting the WSB do something to get better cell service in town. There was also an email from Chris Wright about water in the lower level of the former Shatney Garage that he alleged was caused by beaver in the wetland area behind the garage. Michael Gray, who addresses beaver issues in town, responded to Chris's email. Michael mentioned that Chris made a similar complaint last May and that he has monitored the level of the Kingsbury Branch since then. Michael reported that he witnessed storm runoff from Rte.14 last summer flowing directly into the lower level of the garage and sent an email sent to Chris at the time informing him of this. Michael will contact Chris about this and check out the water level of the brook behind the garage. Robin received notice of the warning from the MVUSD for their annual meeting on February 25th, 6:00 p.m. at Hardwick Elementary School. Voters will be contacted by a postcard mailing. The district's town clerks and all residents are invited to attend and vote at this meeting. Voting for school budgets will be held on Town Meeting Day, March 4th at the Woodbury town hall. Diana reported that Ana Peltz has resigned from the MVUSD board. Robin also mentioned the notice from Stephen Murphy of the upcoming school mock town meeting on February 21st.

Town Treasurer Report: Brandy was not in attendance but sent a report. For the previous two weeks – 01/14/2025 to 01/27/2025 - total cash received was \$41,529.47, of which \$41,025.47 was made up of delinquent tax payments and \$504.00 was from recording/copies/vault.. There was an electronic transfer (ET) of \$83,162.24 from FEMA for reimbursement for 2023 flood repairs and \$75.00 from the State of VT for recording. Payroll came to \$10,231.83 and accounts payable totaled \$14,380.23. Transfers from the MMA to checking totaled \$120,000.00.

Over the last two months, the WSB has reviewed her application and interviewed Lillian Baron for the position of Town Treasurer. She also met with Brandy to confirm her interest in the job. The WSB formally offered her the position at a prior special meeting. She accepted, and the WSB now formalized this process by appointing her as Town Treasurer effective February 3. She will serve in her appointed role until Town Meeting Day, at which time she will seek election to the one year remaining on Brandy's 3-year term.

Open Contractor Bids for TH 23 and TH 24 Bridges: The WSB opened bids from 7 contractors for the bridge mitigation projects. Those bidding were Matthews Excavating; Austin Construction; Kirk Fenoff & Sons; Gravel Construction; Harold's Concrete; Alliance Construction & Excavating and J.A. McDonald. Bid amounts were read aloud. The two projects were bid separately.

After opening and announcing the bids, the board voted to enter an Executive Session to review the bids and discuss the process to award the contract(s) citing 1VSA§313(a)(1)(A) – Contracts. Nate, Alfie, Skip, Robin and Michael were included.

The WSB came out of executive session at 6:52. The lowest bid for the TH 23 bridge was submitted by Alliance Consulting & Excavation; the bid amount was \$143,825.00. The WSB approved awarding the contract for the TH 23 bridge to Alliance. The lowest bid for the TH 24 bridge was submitted by J.A. McDonald; the bid amount was \$161,000.00. The WSB approved awarding the contract for the TH 24 bridge to J.A. McDonald. Nate Sicard will contact the winners and thank all those who submitted bids.

Road Commissioner Report: The road crew has been busy plowing and sanding town roads. The one-ton/550 truck is back in operation. Alfie expressed concern about the town's sand supply, they have already used about half of the pile. If the pile gets too low they may have to haul the rest of the contracted sand that they were unable to fit, if Gravel Construction is willing to open their pit. In the meantime, the crew will be cutting back on the amount of sand used. Alfie mentioned a re-occurring problem with cars parking overnight at the Town Office and the school. He will order and install "No Overnight Parking" signs in the two locations.

Recovery Officer's Report: Work focused on closing out 4720DR-VT July 2023 flood disaster projects; reimbursement from FEMA is almost complete. The TH23 and TH24 bridge mitigation projects will be done this summer. (Bids were opened at this WSB meeting and the projects were awarded to the lowest bidder for each project). The use of leftover funds for these projects is discussed. One strong possibility for use of leftover funds is providing the town match for 2 projects – the EWPP project (grant already awarded) for erosion mitigation of the Buck Lake Brook/ Cabot Road bank as the brook enters the village and the other is a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) 2024 grant (application pending) for the Woodbury Buck Lake Brook Flooding Study. The 4810DR-VT July 2024 flood disaster projects are in the FEMA process "snake". All information has been submitted to FEMA but no reimbursement funds are yet obligated.

Town Meeting Warning: The warning for Town Meeting was approved and signed. The final draft of the Town Report is due to be sent to the printer in a few days.

USDA/NRCS EWPP and BRIC 2024 Grant (Woodbury Buck Lake Brook Flooding Study): Michael met with Brian Voigt of CVRPC to begin work on the grant agreement forms for the EWPP award. Brian will continue work providing the information needed in the agreement and then send on to the WSB for signing. A new funding opportunity from VEM/FEMA – the BRIC 2024 grant – is discussed. Michael's understanding of this grant, if it is awarded, would fund analysis, engineering design and implementation to address the flooding of the village. The WSB gave Michael approval to pursue this grant opportunity. CVRPC and VEM will be assisting with the application.

Appoint a Liaison to the Vermont Ethics Commission: John Reid was appointed to serve as Woodbury's liaison to the commission.

Updates and Other Business:

Compensation to Brandy for training the new treasurer was discussed briefly. In her absence, no decision was made.

Bills and payroll orders were signed at the end of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Diana Peduzzi _____

Chris Casey _____

Lizzy Higgins _____

Date Approved _____