

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2007
WARREN SELECTBOARD
Warren Town Hall
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mac Rood, Chair, Barry Simpson, Burt Bauchner, Erin Russell-Story, Kirstin Reilly.

OTHERS MEMBERS: Michael Ketchel, Miron Malboeuf, Cindi Hartshorn-Jones

7:05 PM – Meeting Call to order by Mr. Rood.

7:06 PM – RICHARD ROBINSON – ROADCREW CHECK IN – Absent due to weather.

7:10 PM – Ancient Roads Survey – Mr. Rood presented to the board an Ancient Roads Survey from the State regarding the progress, expense, mapping, time line for completion of the ancient roads legislation. The board as a group came to agreement on each question asked.

7:12 PM – Preservation Trust Donation – Mr. Rood presented a letter from the Vermont Preservation Trust asking for a contribution from the town. The Preservation Trust has helped the town in other projects, and the board felt that it should be added to the special appropriations list requesting \$100.00. The board felt that since they have been working on the town hall project with Ms. Strauss and that we would be applying for funds, it might be a wise investment.

7:15 PM – **PLANNING COMMISSION/DRB/CHECK IN/BUDGET:** - Miron Malboeuf and Michael Ketchel. Mr. Malboeuf presented the PC and DRB budgets for 2008. Highlighting that Warren received full funding for a municipal planning grant. Project title: Affordable housing: engage a consultant to perform a comprehensive review of existing bylaws and proposed revisions and to develop specific recommendations and proposed language to be integrated into the bylaws to facilitate the development of affordable housing units. The full funding amount was \$15,000 with a \$5,000 match from the town. In the PC budget they were requesting the \$5,000 as a line item in the operation budget under affordable housing. Much discussion took place concerning this amount and it was decided to move it to the “Capital Account – Town Planning & Development. The grant period goes from November of November 2007- May 2009. By moving this amount to the Capital it will remain there if the project did not occur in 2008.

Once recommendations are completed and information gathered from public meetings on the affordable housing changes, the new changes should be voted by tax payers in March of 2009. Mr. Rood asked why the total \$15,000 does not show up in anticipated revenue. Mr. Malboeuf explained that the two physical years over lap so the total \$15,000 would not be shown in one year. Mr. Rood noted that the Zoning/Planning budget was pretty much identical from last year and that they anticipate about \$45,000 in income. Expenditures were and the affordable housing line item was not spent. In the Capital

Account of Town Planning & Development they asked for a contribution of \$12,000 for the study of relocation of town garage requiring engineering expertise. And the on going Brownsfield Grant. The PC would plan on some engineering for the affordable housing at the town garage site. Mr. Bauchner as about if planning for municipal space was considered with the planned library move. Mr. Ketchel responded and saying no not at this time as it is an ongoing plan.

Mr. Malboeuf also presented to the board some slight changes in the zoning fees for 2008. Mr. Bauchner asked about the legal expense item in the DRB budget. Mr. Malboeuf responded that they would use it in cases were they need legal opinions about DRB appeal decisions. Some money was budgeting for mapping of \$2,000. Mr. Rood's thoughts were why all the departments that are budgeting for mapping don't put it all in one place under mapping. The departments would have to provide information to Ms. Robinson so when she constructs her budget; she would know what to plan for. Mr. Malboeuf indicated he was not opposed the idea, but it has been itemized like this and you know how much each department really is spending in the bottom line.

Ms. Reilly inquired about the line item of village pedestrian plan. Mr. Ketchel responded in saying that the PC did a plan about 5 years back for sidewalks and cross walks and the line item has to appear for 5 years in the budget. Ms. Reilly and Ms. Russell-Story indicated it was important to plan for some cross walks or speed tables to implement them into the paving project around the village in 2007. The PC worked on and presented to the Selectboard a plan with all together with studies and engineering which is at the municipal office. Mr. Ketchel indicated that they could use the existing plan and implement some portion of the plan. Mr. Ketchel did not think spending money to readdress and down scaled a new plan for traffic control was feasible when there is plan in place. Mr. Bauchner suggested that this present plan be back to the Selectboard in March and look at it jointly with the PC and make decisions before the paving project. Mr. Rood commented that it could be part of the Selectboard report to alert the people that the Selectboard and PC are going to be talking about it at a Selectboard meeting some time after town meeting.

Mr. Ketchel, Chair of the Planning Commission, presented to the Selecbord a letter of recommendation for a new PC candidate for appointment. Mr. Rood indicated it would be address later in the meeting.

Mr. Bauchner asked Mr. Malboeuf about the 911 database project. Mr. Malboeuf indicated that the initial layout was part of the web server now. Mr. Malboeuf managed to move the **existing data** on to the server so that it is backed up nightly. The project would be a 2-3 year project and it is fairly simple but contains a lot of data. The main 911 data software should be completed next year with a 2nd phase of taking all the permit data and attaching that to the backend of the program.

Mr. Bauchner asked about the road status update regarding the Sugarbush area. Mr. Malboeuf responded that a map was forth coming and notes from Mr. Bannon to follow.

7:30 PM – Ms. Jones went over the budgets that are complete which were: The Selectboard, Town Administrator, Auditors, Office Costs Postage, photocopying, computer, phone/fax, sewer operations, law enforcement, recreation, other expenditures, building maintenance and special appropriations. Mr. Bauchner asked about the payments and when they expire. Ms. Jones will check on this and provide the information at the next budget meeting. Mr. Rood inquired about Ms. Strauss's fees for the town hall. Ms. Jones responded that we are following up on another grant to help offset the costs, but most would come out the capital funds. Ms. Jones also stressed that the expenditure and income numbers are up to date to 12/10/2007 and that we have spent to date 96% of the 2007 budget. Ms. Jones also expressed that the salary and benefits items in each department are the last thing to be addressed in January and that we have not received all the increases as of yet.

8:35 PM – TREASURER'S BUDGET – ELAINE FULLER – CANCELLED.

8:40 PM – TOWN CLERK/DELINQUENT TAX – RETA GOSS – CANCELLED.

8:45 PM – OTHER BUSINESS –

8:46 PM – Route 100/Warren Village Intersection – The AOT and Central VT Regional Planning asked if this intersection project could be looked at again as it would be a good time to do it and have it planned in the 2009-10 paving project of RT 100. Mr. Simpson explained back in 2000 when it was first proposed it came out like a jug handle and extending out the limit of the current paving. It appeared from this plan that they were not extending it out as shown on the current map. Some concerns were site visibility south, tractor trailer trucks turning in and off RT 100, fire truck turning radius. Mr. Simpson seems to remember that there were a lot of adverse comments. Many people like the slid lane as it is now. Mr. Simpson seems to think that there is no question that the new proposal would be a much safer proposal. The AOT down the road will eventually limited this type of intersection. Mr. Rood expressed it would safer but there would be cars stopped on RT 100 more frequently. Ms. Reilly expressed that if the speed limit was reduced on RT 100 it might be ok. Ms. Jones thought it would good to have public hearing on this and have the AOT here to answer the safety questions on the project. Ms. Jones will check to see when the AOT could meet either Feb 26, 2008 or after town meeting.

Letter of Support from Warren Board of Selectmen regarding the rehabilitation of the Warren Village Historic Timber Crib Dam – wrote as follows:

The Warren Board of Selectmen supports the efforts of the independent Warren Village Dam Preservation Trust Inc. in its efforts to rehabilitate and maintain the timber crib dam and mill pond, which are integral parts of Warren Village. The Warren B.O.S also supports the Trusts efforts to reactivate a micro hydroelectric facility to produce electricity from a renewable resource.

Mr. Rood explained that The Dam Preservation Trust received a grant for studies which Community Hydro has done feasibility and assessments studies of the project. Current discussions will take place with the current owner of the property on which side would be best for to establish the hydro electric portion and then they will get into permitting of rebuilding the dam with ANR.

Mr. Bauchner asked about who would benefit from the Electricity? Mr. Rood explained that possibility would be that it could go to the town to run the town hall. However, if a grant is received for the project and its public money from state and federal funds, the power would go to the town. If it is private money, the group would sell the power to the utility. Another aspect of this is that it maybe be possible to remove gravel from mill pond on a regular basis.

Mr. Simpson had reservations concerning this action that it might negate work done by the ANR conjunction with and the Army Corps of Engineers several years ago which anticipated removing gravel as part of this. The work done by the ANR and Army Corps was to remove the dam and gravel. Mr. Simpson and Mr. Rood seem to remember that there was a lot of public support for keeping the timber crib dam. At this present time with all the nation wide weather events, the board felt that there was probably no money available anymore for this project. Mr. Simpson felt there was a lot more interest in hydro electric projects. With some reservations Mr. Simpson does agree to the letter.

Motion by Mr. Bauchner to support this letter to the Dam Preservation Trust, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All In Favor: VOTE: 4-0. (Mr. Rood – Recused)

8:46 PM – Chipper – Mr. Simpson discussed the chipper that Mr. Robinson had researched for town. He felt it would be a benefit having the chipper as identified on the specifications sheet presented to Mr. Simpson. The town currently borrows The Town of Roxbury's chipper and used it quite a bit. Mr. Bauchner asked the question about sharing equipment and capital costs with Roxbury if the two towns went together on the purchase? Mr. Simpson indicated in general it is one of the most dangerous piece of equipment and that liability wise you get into the situation of borrowing and having our employees use it without Roxbury's supervision. Where you get into the situation of "you borrowed it, you broke it and you buy it". Mr. Bauchner asked if Roxbury's Chipper was a good. Mr. Simpson explained that Roxbury's machine was undersized for what Warren needs. They are sized according to size of logs, hardness of wood. Warren and Roxbury cooperate around the times that each town needs to use it. Mr. Bauchner asked if Warren approach Roxbury to sell machine that the two towns together could buy a good machine to share and work out maintenance and cost arrangements. It would be a cross town cooperation that could save both towns money. Mr. Simpson will go back to the crew and asked what they think.

8:55 PM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR 11/27/2007 – Motion by Mr. Simpson to approve the minutes of 11/27/2007, second by Mr. Bauchner. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:56 PM – PERELLIE COMPLAINT – Mr. Simpson addressed the board concerning a call that Ms. Jones received from Jennifer Perellie on Brook Road regarding the job trailer located across the road by the Freeman Brook Bridge. She stated she does not like looking at the job trailer across from her home and that she was told it would be removed.

Ms. Jones had a conversation with Mark Cote of Blow & Cote and he stated he was not going to move it as they were come back in the spring to finish the bridge project. He indicated it was placed out of the town's operational area for plowing, it was not a safety issue, and is not reasonably unsightly and that he had permission of the landowner to leave it there. Mr. Simpson stopped and spoke to Ms. Perellie and heard her complaint and Mr. Simpson had followed up with the State and Blow and Cote and the trailer would not be removed. Mr. Simpson left a message at the Perellie's for Jennifer indicating that the trailer would remain where it was. The board discussed the issue and came to the conclusion that the project was and undoubtedly an inconvenience and unsightly to anyone living near it and will be over and done with this spring.

9:00PM – Motion by Mr. Bauchner to go into executive session to discuss personnel and invite Ms. Jones, second by Mr. Rood. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

9:25 PM – Motion by Mr. Bauchner to come out of executive session, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

926 PM – Motion by Mr. Rood to authorized Ms. Jones to sign the letter of employment offer to Mr. Peck, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

9:30 PM – **Appointment of Planning Commission Candidate vacated by Mr. Morehouse.** Motion by Mr. Simpson to approve the candidate recommendation by the Planning Commission of Mr. Craig Koflach, second by Ms. Reilly. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.


9:30 PM – Motion by Mr. Bauchner to adjourn, second by Ms. Reilly. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Cindi Hartshorn-Jones,
Warren Town Administrator


Warren Selectboard



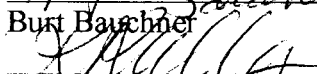
Mac Rood, Chair




Barry Simpson



Burt Bauchner



Kirstin Reilly



Erin Russell-Story.

Letter of Support from Warren Board of Selectmen
12/11/2007

RE: Rehabilitation of the Warren Village Historic Timber Crib Dam

The Warren Board of Selectmen supports the efforts of the independent Warren Village Dam Preservation Trust Inc. in its efforts to rehabilitate and maintain the timber crib dam and mill pond, which are integral parts of Warren Village. The Warren B.O.S also supports the Trust's efforts to reactivate a micro hydroelectric facility to produce electricity from a renewable resource.

Warren Vermont Dam Preservation Trust

DRAFT Charter

Sept. 1, 2004

The Trust's mission is to restore the historic timber crib dam located on the Mad River in Warren Village, Vermont in a manner that meets the following criteria:

- Preserve this historically important site
- Preserve the recreational and scenic value of the mill pond
- Reinststate the hydroelectric facility to provide electrical power to the Town of Warren

AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 11, 2007
WARREN SELECTBOARD
WARREN TOWN HALL
7:00 PM

7:00 PM – ROAD CREW CHECK IN – RICHARD ROBINSON

7:15 PM – PLANNING COMMISSION/DRB/CHECK IN/BUDGET – MIRON

7:30 PM – TREASURERS BUDGET PRESENTATION – ELAINE FULLER

7:45 PM – TOWN CLERK/DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR BUDGET
PRESENTATION – RETA GOSS

8:00 PM – OTHER BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2007