

# TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 17, 2023  
7 PM at Craftsbury Town Hall

**Present:** Susan Houston, Jim Jones, Bruce Urie | Penelope Doherty, Brian Machesney, Michelle Warren

## SELECT BOARD AGENDA

- **Action – Call Meeting to Order**

Jim Jones called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

- **Action – Adjustments/Changes to Agenda**

Add the conversation with Linda Martin with Wolcott Select Board – North Wolcott Road

- **Action – Approve Minutes**

**Bruce Urie moved to approve the January 3 Regular Meeting and Jim Jones seconded; Bruce moved to approve the January 10 budget meeting. Jim Jones seconded; all aye. Motion passed.**

- **Discussion – State of Vermont Emergency Management Comments on Craftsbury Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Penelope Doherty brought everyone up to speed on the comments from the State on updates to Hazard Mitigation Plan. Now approved by FEMA; timeline/calendar for beginning the annual local review of same. Ms. Doherty walked the group through the Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool used to walk through the State comments on the Craftsbury hazard mitigation plan. Ms. Doherty spoke with Hazard Mitigation Planner Caroline Paske with Vermont Emergency Management of the Vermont Department of Public Safety. The review tool is broken down into areas: the state always will provide suggestions for improvements, as there is always room. The State is impressed with the Craftsbury planning process, noting that 3 strengths to 1 improvement “is unusually strong.” Cross-collaboration in plan preparation was applauded.

The Craftsbury Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is valid for five years. Plans include interim reviews: the Craftsbury Select Board Chair is “responsible for initiating” the annual review process and has “primary responsibility for ensuring the process occurs.” Will be bumpy at first; one thing is clear, that the Town must develop some type of tracking tool for interim updates. The Select Board thanked Ms. Doherty and the town working group for their efforts on the plan updates.



HazMitPlanUpdates

Details available in this doc:

- **Discussion – Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District Annual Report**

LRSWMD member Penelope Doherty shared the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District annual report, new informational posters, and new transfer closure phone line (802-441-6639): people can call to check and make sure the transfer station is open. Only states which stations are closed. Informational posters showing materials by tonnage collected will be placed throughout town – and include the transfer closure phone line.

- **Action – Rescind Affirmative Vote Re ARPA Funds for Broadband Expansion**

Brian Machesney provided an update: between now and when we were obliged to spend – more money might be available. IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) might bring funds required to continue with the expansion. Would like to delay this vote until the last possible minute. Cannot go back and re-vote in the expansion and still receive the matching dollars. Once rescinded, the matching funds immediately evaporate. The longer the delay in rescinding the better the chances of obtaining monies allowing Craftsbury to benefit from the matching funds. Cannot sell town-owned dark fiber – ever; cannot sell something that Craftsbury acquired through federal grant dollars – conditions of the grant. The ARPA expenditure deadline 2023/2024 provides time. Table discussion and postpone the vote for now.

- **Update – Food Share ARPA Grant Contact Information**

Correction on contact information for the ARPA grant to Food Share: Town Clerk spoke with contact and on the ARPA form: chair name should also be included, and two signatures will be required.

- **Discussion – ARPA Funds: Expenditures and Investments**

What funds already have been expended; what amount remains? Select Board Member Houston asked whether Craftsbury can invest remaining funds and earn interest; avoid it just sitting. Town Clerk is awaiting info from bank regarding potential investment options. Total remaining and investment options will be researched along with the rules regarding investment of ARPA funds.

- **Discussion – Antiques & Uniques for 2023**

Craftsbury residents – husband and wife – interested in organizing and leading the group as volunteers. Longtime residents. No chair for the group. Committee meeting scheduled for Friday; could resident attend the meeting virtually? Town Clerk will send link to meeting. Will decide at special meeting next week.

- **Clerk Report**

No reports. Just submitted a copy of the budget and the warning.

Group reviewed the warning sample: won't have final figures until information obtained from respective sources. Avoid use of text that may bias readers, according to guidelines from VCTL (Vermont League of Cities & Towns).

Weight Permit – Carroll Concrete signed.

- **Road Foreman Report**

Select Board co-chair Urie spoke with Linda Martin, member of the Wolcott Select Board, regarding discussions among Vermont Regional Planning Commission members, the Select Board and themselves about having AOT (Vermont Agency of Transportation) assume responsibility for North Wolcott Road; towns would not have to maintain. Would Craftsbury want to be part of that discussion? Craftsbury will agree to be part. Urie will advise her of town willingness to be part of talks.

- **Committee Reports**

*ARPA Working Group / Ad-Hoc Committee* – update on the school generator; Joe Houston contacted Select Board member Houston. Generator costing about \$80K; hoping town will contribute \$50K.

*Conservation Commission* – air traffic warning lights required; towers – cannot put on existing machines. Lost a member of the group, who resigned. Seeking two new members.

*Recreation Committee* – may need to include as an action item for next meeting; add a new member. Town Clerk received an email notice.

*Mental Health Group* – on January 28 from 1-3 pm at the library; start with five people in the community to take the suicide training.

● **Upcoming Projects to Keep on Agenda**

- What triggers opening of emergency shelter, providing assistance, activating the N2N group? - Susan
- Process to throw up Class 4,TH 23, Bruce waiting to hear back from Jason at VTrans
- Meeting date with Greensboro and Glover to consider part-time grant writer
- Animal Control Ordinance, Michelle emailed draft to Kelly Carpenter
- VOREC grant, upgrade Sterling Trail, parking signage-Gina Campoli will update (Feb)
- Common Fence Cemetery
- Appreciation Certificates
- Electricity on the Common
- Act 172 Municipalities
- Assessing Spaces and Needs

● **Other Business & Walk-ins with Business to Come before the Select Board**

- Pope Animal Shelter requested ARPA funding; a bit late for submission.
- Notice about microgrid that Outdoor Center submitted; will be posted.
- Sara Davies and Select Board member Urie continuing discussion about unclaimed land.
- Select Board member Houston to follow up with Susan Clark regarding meeting date.

● **Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn**

Next meetings:

Special meeting on January 24, 2023, at 11 am– vote on budget and articles and the Antiques and Uniques for 2023. Regular meeting on February 7, 2023, at 7 pm at Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Victoria Hudson  
Select Board Clerk