

**Selectmen's Meeting, Tuesday, January 8th, 2019 in the Cavendish Town Office
Meeting Room at 6:00 PM.**

Present: Bob Glidden (Chairman), George Timko, Mike Ripley, Mark Huntley (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Sandra Russo, Brendan McNamara (Town Manager), Bruce McEnaney (Assistant Town Manager) and Jen Leak (Recording Secretary).

1. Call the meeting to order

Bob Glidden, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Review Correspondence

Bob Glidden, Chairman, directed the Board to review correspondence at their convenience during the course of the meeting.

3. Adjust Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

4. Meet with representatives of the Windsor County Sheriff Department regarding consideration of the appropriation request for FY19-20.

Michael Chamberlain, Sheriff, and Claude Weyant were present. Michael said that the Sheriff Deputies are currently in Cavendish for 12 hours per week. He said that they vary their routes to cover the back roads and to enforce speed limits in "hot spots" through town. Michael said that they will also respond to emergency calls if they are in the area. He said that he is requesting an increase in the hourly rate from \$53 to \$55 but will keep the mileage rate level-funded at \$0.60 per mile. He asked the Board to let him know if they wished to make any other changes in the services that the Sheriff's Department provides.

Brendan commented that the revenues the Town receives from traffic tickets have been higher due to more tickets being issued during the construction on Route 103 last summer, so the sheriff's budget came in right on target for FY18. He said he appreciated that the deputies come into the Town Office regularly to check up on regarding recent incidents in town and will tailor their activities accordingly.

Michael noted that, eventually, the Town may need to consider either increasing the services the Sheriff's Department provides or forming a Cavendish Town Police Department. He added that the costs of running a police department are high and continue to increase. The Board commented that they felt most residents appreciated having the deputies in Town and thanked Michael and Claude for coming tonight. Michael and Claude left the meeting.

Brendan informed the Board that he has received several calls from residents who would like the voters to consider removing the Sheriff's Department from the FY20 budget. The Board discussed whether this would be voted on from the floor at Town Meeting or by Australian ballot on Voting Day. Brendan said that he would discuss that issue with the Town Clerk.

Mark Huntley now joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Brendan said that the Australian voting will again take place at the Proctorsville Fire Station. He asked if the Board thought that Town Meeting should also be held at the Fire Station or if it should continue to be held at the Elementary School. The Board suggested that it might be less confusing if Town Meeting was again held at the school. Brendan added that the Town Clerk

had checked with the Secretary of State and the Town Meeting does not need to be held to be in the official polling place.

5. **Work on FY 2019-2020 Selectmen's Budget.**

Under the category of **External Appropriations**, page 2 of 2, **Mark Huntley moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to approve appropriations for the following organizations for a total of \$11,150:**

Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice	\$4,000
HCRS of SE Vermont	\$600
Black River Senior Center	\$3,000
Green Mountain RSVP	\$200
Black River Good Neighbors	\$600
SEVCA	\$500
Vt Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$100
Windsor County Youth Services	\$400
Council on Aging SE VT/Senior Solutions	\$350
The Current	\$0
Okemo Valley TV	\$600
American Red Cross	\$500
Women's Freedom Center	\$200
VT Center for Independent Living	\$100
Total	\$11,150

All voted in favor.

Brendan informed the Board that the federal cost of living adjustment (COLA) is 2.8%, so he has used that percentage to increase all salaries and wages. He said that he is proposing to eliminate the Assistant Town Manager position for FY20. Brendan stressed that this decision is not a personal one. Rather, the position was intended to be temporary for the transition period when Richard Svec retired. Brendan said that he and Bruce have discussed the issue and are both in agreement. Brendan said that he feels comfortable assuming the oversight of the Transfer Station now that Bruce has cleaned up and organized that department. Bruce said that he will discuss staying on as cemetery sextant with the Board when the cemetery budget is presented.

Under the category of **Officers**, page 1 of 1, **George Timko moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to approve items b, d, g, h, i and j as requested. All voted in favor.** The Board agreed to consider wages and salaries later in the budget process.

The Board discussed whether or not to approve the Lister budget, since there is a petition to put eliminating the position of Lister on the Town Meeting Warning. Brendan said that the Town Clerk is getting an estimate from our current appraisal company, NEMRC, to increase the scope of their services in order to cover most of the Lister duties. The Board agreed to wait for more information before approving this section.

Under the category of **Office**, page 1 of 3, **Bob Glidden moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to approve section b as requested. All voted in favor.**

Under the category of **Office**, page 2 of 3, **Bob Glidden moved/George Timko seconded a motion to approve the page as requested. All voted in favor.**

Under the category of **Office**, page 3 of 3, *Mark Huntley moved/George Timko seconded a motion to reduce the item Heating Fuel to the amount of \$250 and to approve the rest of the page as requested. All voted in favor.*

Under the category of **Elections/Town Meeting**, page 1 of 1, *George Timko moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to approve the page as requested. All voted in favor.*

Under the category of **General Services**, page 1 of 2, *George Timko moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to reduce the item of Administration to \$0.00, add the items of Organics Hauling for \$1,200 and Portajohn Rental for \$1,080, and approve the rest of the page as requested with the exception of attendant salaries. All voted in favor.* The Board agreed to consider wages and salaries later in the budget process.

Under the category of **General Services**, page 2 of 2, *George Timko moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to approve the page as requested with the exception of Sheriff's Office Services. All voted in favor.* The Board agreed to discuss the Sheriff's Office Services later in the budget process.

Under the category of **Garage**, page 1 of 1, *Bob Glidden moved/George Timko seconded a motion to approve the page as requested. All voted in favor.*

George said that he would like to ask the Board to consider putting the tax exempt status of the Black River Health Center on the Town Meeting warning. The Board agreed.

George Timko moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to include the consideration of the Black River Health Center exemption from property taxes for a period of 5 years on the Town Meeting Warning. George Timko recused himself. Sandra Russo, Mark Huntley, Mike Ripley and Bob Glidden voted in favor.

The Board discussed concerns that have been communicated to them regarding the Cavendish Facebook page, administered by Margo Caulfield. The Board discussed the opinion which some people have expressed to them that information posted under the name "Cavendish VT" should be neutral and unbiased because people often assume it is an official Town of Cavendish site. The Board agreed that the Facebook page name couldn't be restricted and the majority of the information posted on this page is beneficial to the community. The Board also agreed that it was sometimes problematic to have a social media site administered by a private individual which is often mistaken as an official town site. Bruce volunteered to convey this information to the site administrator.

6. Adjourn

Mark Huntley moved/George Timko seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. All voted in favor.

Minutes Approved: _____

Date: _____