

**Select Board Meeting, Thursday, December 21st, 2023 at 6:00pm**  
**Location: Town Office Meeting Room: 37 High Street Cavendish Vermont**

**Present:** Bob Glidden (Chairman), Mike Ripley, George Timko, Shannon Devereux, Dave Norton, Rick Chambers (Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary), and Diane McNamara (Town Treasurer).

**1. Call the meeting to order**

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

**2. Adjust agenda**

Rick said that another parcel needed to be added to item #3-errors and omissions for parcel #2R10-096.01

**3. Town Treasurer to request Select Board approval to correct errors found in the 2023 As Billed Grand List as follows:**

- Parcel #2R21-135.06: Omission of municipal tax billing

Diane said that she intended to discuss this parcel at the last Board meeting, but the parcel id was incorrect on the agenda. She said that this property did not get coded correctly in the grand list so was not charged for the municipal portion of the tax rate. She asked the Board to approve the addition of the municipal tax rate to this parcel which will increase the yearly taxes by \$4,104.56.

*Mike Ripley moved/Dave Norton seconded a motion to correct the tax rate and increase the annual taxes by \$4,104.56 for parcel 2R21-135.06. All voted in favor.*

- Parcel #2R10-096.01: Current Use Exemption Error

Diane said that the current use department notified her of this error recently. She said that the property had been in current use, then it was sold and the new owners did not re-enroll it in current use but the current use exemption was not removed. The property has sold for the second time and the land value is just now being adjusted. Diane said that the land value would be increased by \$64,100 and therefore the annual taxes will increase. She said that since the taxes go with the property the new owners will need to pay the additional taxes due.

*Shannon Devereux moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to add \$64,100 to the property value for parcel 2R10-096.01. All voted in favor.*

**4. Work on FY25 Budget.**

Rick passed out the first draft of the FY25 budget and reviewed it with the Board. He said that there were some areas which he felt needed to increase substantially and this draft showed an overall increase of 29%. He said that the biggest increases were to the paving fund and capital equipment fund.

\Rick said that previous budgets have added \$50,00 to the paving fund per year. He said at that rate it would be another two years before there was enough funds to pave Quent Phelan Rd. Rick said that adding \$250,000 would allow it to be paved this coming season. He added that the town is not in line to receive a state paving grant for several more years.

Rick said that additional paving funds could be added into this budget or could be listed as a separate article to be voted upon. He said that both Quent Phelan Road and the lower part of Whitesville Road

would need a total rebuild, while other roads might just need surface paving. Rick added that paving on a shorter schedule might save the town money in the long run if it prevents the need to totally rebuild roads.

Rick said that he would like to put \$100,000 rather than \$50,000 into the capital equipment fund. He added that \$30,000 per year is paid out of this fund to leasing the loader so only \$20,000 is actually added to the fund. Rick said that new trucks don't last as long as the older ones did and he thought leasing might be a better option. He said that there is currently about a two year waiting period to get delivery on a new leased truck.

George asked about the increase in summer gravel as he thought we had material to crush our own rather than purchase gravel. Rick said that he put in \$78,500 which would pay for crushing 10 thousand cubic yards of our own gravel. He said that the Town should have enough gravel for spring mud season, but all the roads need new gravel put on top to avoid hitting ledge. He said that he would like to build the roads back up so they drain water better and that amount of gravel would be sufficient for those repairs. Rick said that there is a set-up fee of \$3,500 to bring in the crushing equipment so he could like to crush enough to cover the Town's needs until the following spring.

Rick said that most of the other increases are adjustments for actual spending, especially for truck repairs. He said that the vehicle radios need replacing. He estimated that expense at \$10,000 but he said that he would get a better quote.

Rick said that he increased employee wages by 5.5%.

Rick said that the Sheriff's department gave him figures for 7 different coverage options, ranging from \$27,000 to keep the current 8 hours per week to \$500,000 for full 24/7 coverage. The Board agreed to keep the current 8 hours per week.

Rick said that he had some figures to update and he would send another draft out to the Board before their next meeting. The Board agreed to meet on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

5. **Adjourn**

*George Timko moved/Dave Norton seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. All voted in favor.*

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_