## Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes Thetford Town Offices

## (w/Virtual Attendance Option) Monday, June 5, 2023 7:00 PM

Selectboard members present: David Goodrich (vice-chair), Mary Bryant, Li Shen, Steve Tofel

Selectboard members absent: Sharon Harkay

Others present: Interim Town Manager Tom Yennerell, Department of Public Works Foreman Dale Lewis, Selectboard assistant Martie Betts

Participating community members: Melissa Krzal

David Goodrich called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. **Agenda Review**

No changes to the agenda.

1. **Notes from the Selectboard Chair**

David Goodrich received notification from the state that Mariah Whitcomb has been accepted and commissioned as our Town Health Officer.

1. **Town Manager Report – Interim Tom Yennerell**

Tom said the town has received 2 small grants, $18,000 for ditching improvements, and $4,000 that will go to the energy committee.

Paving bids are due by June 14th, and they should be reviewing them at the meeting on June 19th. The paving is on Academy Road, chosen based on the Stantec report. Tom suggested that as they go forward with paving it appears that a focus or priority for residents is Tucker Hill Road, and he advised that if they decide to do it, the project should be analyzed in more detail.

Tom said the gravel roads have all had the first round of grading and dust control, which is a good place to be at the beginning of June.

Treasure Island opened over Memorial Day weekend and will open full time after school closes. There is a bit of a plumbing issue, but that should be fixed soon.

There was some discussion in previous meetings about signs put up by the NH DOT concerning the Thetford-Lyme bridge closure. There are now new signs that say local businesses open, including use of the electronic sign boards. Sharon Harkay accomplished that by contacting the project manager from the NH DOT and the VT DOT. Local businesses have responded positively.

Regarding the dangerous building on Houghton Hill Road, the owner was given 2 weeks to come up with a plan, which he did not do. After 2 weeks, Tom left him a message but has not heard back from him. Tom has reached out to an engineer to have him look at it and give an idea of the cost.

There will be construction on Route 113 on Thetford Hill near Buzzell Bridge Road, which will cause the road to be down to one lane. The work should last about 2 months.

1. **Public Comment**

Melissa Krzal said she had noticed poor condition of some of the Town Hall clapboards and window frames, and wondered if there was anything in the works to take care of it. Some of the clapboards look like they should be replaced because they are so bad.

Mary Bryant said she had noticed that too. Mary thanked Melissa for the beautiful flowers she put around Town Hall.

Dale Lewis said the construction on Route 113 at the Thetford/West Fairlee town line is tentatively set for July 8th and 9th.

1. **FEMA Project Balance – pay off from General Fund Surplus or Highway Fund Surplus**

Tom said the auditors conducted the 2022 audit in January, and it was completed a few weeks ago. They confirmed the fund balances and made the recommendation to transfer money from either the general fund surplus or the highway fund surplus for the FEMA project balance, which is $202,362.00. The auditors and staff recommended that the funds be transferred from the general fund as the highway fund can have unforeseen expenses.

**Motion** by David Goodrich to transfer the amount of $202,362.00 from the general fund balance to cover the previous FEMA expenditures in accordance with the auditor’s recommendation. VOTE by roll call: Li Shen – in favor, Mary Bryant – in favor, Steve Tofel – in favor, David Goodrich – in favor. **Motion carried**.

1. **Reappointment of Town Forest Fire Warden Chad Whitcomb**

David said the state has notified the Selectboard that the Fire Warden’s term ends on June 30th this year. David spoke with Chad Whitcomb, who confirmed that he would like to be reappointed for the 5-year term.

**Motion** by Li Shen to reappoint Chad Whitcomb to the position of Town Forest Fire Warden for a 5-year term, beginning on July 1st of this year. VOTE: All in favor (4-0-0), **motion carried**.

1. **Selectboard Liaison Reports; Li Shen (Planning Commission), David Goodrich (Tri-Town Commission)**

Li Shen, liaison to the Planning Commission, said they are now moving forward after a long period of self-examination due to an internal falling out over a conflict with Two Rivers Ottauquechee Planning Commission. During that time no one knew who the chair was, however, David Forbes was appointed as Chair, and Cynthia Shelton as vice chair. The commission came up with rules of procedures to help them run their meetings and members of the commission must sign that they agree to the rules of procedure. Li reviewed some of the details of the document.

David Goodrich said he and Jessica Eaton went to the Lake Fairlee Dam a few weeks ago and looked it over, including the sink holes and the function of the gate. He did note that the railings on the dam need to be painted, and this has been known for a while. David said they are looking into whether there is some type of inspection form that could be used so people know what to look for when inspecting the dam.

1. **Warrants and Minutes**

#10.3 $75.00

#10.4 $17,788.75

#11.3 $12,897.58

#12.2 $12,856.44

#11.4 $19,240.23

#21.1 $5,597.86

#22.1 $74,012.16

#23.1 $3,059.07

**Motion** by Mary Bryant to accept the minutes with changes made for the Monday May 15th meeting. VOTE: All in favor (4-0-0), **motion carried**.

**Motion** by Li Shen to accept the warrants as presented. VOTE: All in favor (4-0-0), **motion carried.**

1. **Adjourn**

**Motion** by Steve Tofel to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:48 PM. VOTE: All in favor (4-0-0), **motion carried**.