

OCTOBER 20, 2011 MINUTES

The Board received an email from Kathie Sawyer stating that she believes she requested the cost of legal fees to date and it was not reflected in the minutes. The Board doesn't recall her making that request at the October meeting therefore the minutes will not be amended.

SEARCH ENGINE ON WEBSITE

The Board discussed an email received from Kathie Sawyer with regard to a search engine on the Town's website. Google offers a site search service for a fee starting at \$100 per year for a maximum of 20,000 searches.

John Quinn made a motion to purchase from Google the 20,000 maximum search query service with an annual fee of \$100 annual fee on a trial basis for one year, seconded by Ira Allen. Motion passed: 3-0.

WEB CAM

The Board discussed Kathie Sawyer's request to videotape meetings. The Board will advise that they have discussed videotaping in the past with regard to PEG access and it is something the board may do in the future. It was noted that citizens have the right to tape meetings on their own accord as long as it doesn't disrupt the meeting or cause a distraction.

SELECTBOARD RULES OF PROCEDURES

John Quinn made a motion to amend the Selectboard Rules of Procedures to include the acceptability of audio or video recording by citizens providing the recording doesn't impede the progress of the meeting, seconded by Ira Allen. Motion passed: 3-0.

TOWN CHARTER INFORMATIONAL FLYER

If acceptable, the Board members will circulate drafts of the section they are responsible for to other Board members. VLCT will be contacted for an opinion. If it is not acceptable, the drafts will be distributed at the next meeting.

HUMANE SOCIETY ANNUAL AGREEMENT

The Chair signed the annual agreement for the Humane Society.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A town employee would like to add their spouse to their Aflac policy. Aflac contacted the town for permission. The Board feels this is acceptable where applicable and as long as there is no cost to the Town. Charlotte will find out how the premium is withheld (i.e. pretax).

Bob Bancroft made a motion to pay employees participating in the opt out health insurance benefit on a monthly basis, which includes the monthly premium and the high deductible, seconded by John Quinn. Motion passed: 3-0.

ROAD SCHEDULE

John Quinn made a motion to approve the Road Schedule for December 26, 2011 through January 14, 2012, seconded by Ira Allen. Motion passed: 3-0.

Gary advised that the Martel lot is too wet to flatten the tall overgrowth. An abutter will be contacted to discuss removal of the items placed on the Town's property. It may be possible to use the CSWD Clean Up Fund to dispose of the items. The ground will need to freeze before the items can be removed.

The barn on the corner of Woods Hollow Road and Maple Tree Lane has been removed. The removal did not improve site distance. The Board discussed shaving down the bank and reseeding. The property owner will be contacted to discuss this.

Gary asked permission to apply for a grant through VLCT to purchase safety equipment. The grant requires a 50% match. The Board would like an estimate of how much the equipment will cost to determine if the match can be met.

BILLS/CORRESPONDENCE

Bills were approved and correspondence was read.

CVPS and Efficiency Vermont are offering an opportunity to replace street lights with LED lighting. The Board is interested in pursuing replacement. The Energy Committee will be contacted to ask them to inventory the lights and prepare any paperwork needed.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board reviewed the new draft budget, which reflects an increase of approximately 14%. They would like to trim the budget, possibly having separate articles for some items, so the budget has no more than an 8% increase.

MINUTES

John Quinn made a motion to approve the October 20, 2011 minutes as written, the December 1, 2011 minutes as written, the December 6, 2011 minutes as amended and the December 8, 2011 minutes as written, seconded by Ira Allen. Motion passed: 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ira Allen made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. to discuss litigation, seconded by John Quinn. Motion passed: 3-0. People in attendance were Bob Bancroft, John Quinn, Ira Allen and Nanette Rogers. The Board exited Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert L. Bancroft, Chair
Westford Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk

