

Selectboard
Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2015

Present: Seth Bigelow (Conservation), Jeff Cleary (Schools), John Ogden,
Jeremiah Evarts, Greg Eckhardt,(Selectmen), Andrea Ogden (Treasurer),
Chrystal Cleary (Clerk)

Next meeting: January 15, 2014 6pm at Landgrove Town Hall

I. School Board Report

Jeff reported about Mountain Towns RED budget for the next year, what parts we can and cannot control, and the proposed additions to the parts the RED will vote on at the district Budget Meeting on Monday Jan 12. (\$140,000 for: Full time Health Teacher, Pilot program of extracurricular activities and a summer lunch program for kids, and building in three 'phantom students' to the budget to make sure there is enough money for addition to the enrollment without throwing the budget off midstream) The total budget as proposed is \$9.5 million, up from last year's 8.3 million for an increase of 14%- this increase is due to a larger number of students attending high school this year as well as increases in special education.

Discussion surrounded explanation of the numbers and increases and the way education is funded in Vermont at this time as well as what changes may be in store at the State level in the future to rein in the increasing burden on towns from what is currently a property-tax driven system that is redistributed by the State. The Selectboard voted for Jeff to support the budget as proposed, and to bring in Representative Patti Komline to advocate for us at the State level as education funding reshapes there.

II. Conservation Commission

Seth prepared a resource inventory of the Wendy Evarts Memorial Forest, and described it as a plan for harvest in the next 10-15 years, but due to the time taken up by the School report, he requested we table the report for another meeting. There has been no response yet from any abutters of the Comfort Forest, but there is also no hurry.

III. Other Business

Andrea presented a draft of the accounts, in preparation for the Town Annual Report, which will be discussed further at the Jan 15th Selectboard meeting.

John is going to meet Rob Woolmington on the 15th at noon for the Laverack Walkthrough.

Next meeting is Thursday Jan 15th at 6pm, focus will be on the Budget/Town Report and unfinished business we didn't get to at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Chrystal Cleary