

WESTMINSTER, VT SELECTBOARD MEETING

Friday, March 11, 2022

In Person at the Westminister Town Hall

Selectboard Present: Kevin Hughes, Craig Allen, Jason Perry, Toby Young and Katrina Hamilton

Staff Present: Russell Hodgkins (Town Manager/Zoning Administrator)

Others Present: June Streeter, Cassandra Pedigo, Nancy Dalzell, and John Jones

1. **Call to Order:** Russell Hodgkins – Town Manager called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM for the reorganization of the Westminister Selectboard for the upcoming year.

2. **Reorganization of the Westminister Selectboard:**
 - A. Mr. Hodgkins asked for nominations for the Chair of the Westminister Board for the upcoming year. Kevin Hughes nominated Jason Perry for Chair with Craig Allen seconding. The Town Manager asked if there were any other nominations and hearing none put it to a vote. The vote passed to have Jason Perry be the next Chair for the Selectboard with a vote of 4-0-1. Jason Perry recused his vote. Mr. Hodgkins then turned the meeting over to Jason Perry. Toby Young asked to say something before continuing and thanked Kevin Hughes for being a wonderful Chair for the past year. All agreed that Kevin did a great job.
 - B. Mr. Perry asked for nominations for the Vice Chair position of the Westminister Board for the upcoming year. Katrina Hamilton nominated Kevin Hughes for Vice Chair with Craig Allen seconding. Hearing no other nominations, Jason Perry call for a vote. The vote passed to have Kevin Hughes be the next Vice Chair for the Selectboard with a vote of 4-0-1. Kevin Hughes recused his vote. Jason Perry declared Kevin Hughes to be the next Vice Chair.
 - C. Mr. Perry then asked for nominations for the Clerk of the Westminister Selectboard for the upcoming year. Kevin Hughes nominated Katrina Hamilton for Clerk with Craig Allen seconding. The Chair asked if there were any other nominations and hearing none put it to a vote. The vote passed to have Katrina Hamilton be the next Clerk for the Selectboard with a vote of 4-0-1. Katrina Hamilton recused her vote.

Other Business:

Jason Perry asked if there were any comments from the public at this time. Cassandra Pedigo told the Board that as the temporary Treasurer she has a number of problems regarding conflicts of interest and job descriptions. She said that Craig Allen being on the Selectboard makes him ineligible to be an Assistant Treasurer as voted on at the last Selectboard meeting. The State of Vermont defines this in the State Statues. Cassandra continued that he needs to be replaced immediately and recommended Kelley Thayer to be an Assistant Treasurer. The Town Manager

told the meeting that she already is an Assistant Treasurer but does not have the ability to sign checks per the Selectboard appointment. Cassandra asked if anybody had contacted the State about the new appointments of Treasurers and the resigning of Paul Harlow? The Town Manager will find out this information for the next meeting. Cassandra then told the Board that she would keep this job until November when an election can take place. When asked about who's going to be the second signer for the checks, Cassandra stated that it can not be the Town Manager. Cassandra Pedigo told the Board that by State law, highway funds need to be separate from the Town budget and she is not sure who combined them but this needs to cease immediately and the two be separated. She continued that she feels that we should not pay NEMRC to do this task. Toby Young commented that she wasn't sure all of this information is correct but is definitely worth looking into. Jason Perry told the meeting that the Board is already proceeding with this task, and it should be done shortly. Craig Allen gave a brief explanation of why it was not done in years passed with the end conclusion being that they needed to pay the School District and Fire Department prior to receiving all of the needed taxes from taxpayers and to avoid borrowing, kept with this format for cash flow.

The Chair then asked if anybody else had any comments and John Jones said that he did not know about this meeting and specifically asked to be on the agenda for the next meeting. It was recognized that this meeting was to reorganize only for the Westminster Selectboard, and he would be on the March 23, 2022 agenda. He stated he would wait to comment then but said that what happened to him should never happen to anyone who is volunteering their time to support the Town. John continued that he wants to resign from the Windham Regional Commission representative position, the ARPA Committee, and the Westminster Economic Committee. Jason Perry told John that he would make sure he was on the next agenda. June Streeter asked if the next meeting would be on March 23 and the Chair replied yes. Craig Allen told the meeting that the cancelling of the meeting was done by him because of the weather as he is the Vice Chair and Kevin Hughes was unavailable to make the call. He continued that the Town Manager did the correct protocol of communication of the storms development by trying to contact the Chair first and with no response, then the Vice Chair. This is not Russ's call he continued, it was his to cancel the meeting. June Streeter asked about a robo-call system where every taxpayer could be notified with a quick phone message like the school does. This will be looked into again.

3. Date of Next Meeting - March 23, 2022 at the Town Hall at 6:30 PM.

4. Adjournment: Toby Young motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 PM, seconded by Craig Allen, meeting adjourned.

Selectboard Clerk

Date