

BLSG Board Meeting Minutes 1-10-19

Present: Stephen Belcher, Art Doty, Rebecca Holmes, Brad Lawes, Ben Lawton, Will Mathis, Wayne Rausenberger, Jeff Smith, Kerry White, Jeff Whiting.

Guests: Rick Enser, Salisbury citizen; Jay Michael, Lake Dunmore Assoc. liaison; Ken Tichacek, Salisbury Select Board; Paul Vasey, Salisbury Select Board.

Ben Lawton called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

1. Introduction of guests.

Motion to move agenda item number 7 to item number 2 (Moved by J. Whiting 2nd by Art Doty)
Approved.

2. Citizens' Concerns. Rebecca Holmes, Representative from Salisbury submitted her resignation from the board, effective immediately. Rebecca Holmes' resignation was accepted and approved by the board (Moved by B. Lawes 2nd by J. Smith). Ben Lawton thanked her for her input and appreciates the time she took to bring the board's attention to issues that need improving including doing a better job getting information out to the public, Select Boards and to the members of the towns.

- 3.

J. Whiting addressed the concerns about the legal fees by noting that the legal filings from Toxic Action Center (TAC) appealed the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' (ANR) approval of the Notice of Intent (NOI) under the Pesticide General Permit by BLSG. The Environmental Court decided to review the NOI (Notice of Intent) in its entirety to see if it met the requirements of the PGP requirements. ANR took the position that the BLSG needed to take the lead in defending that the NOI met the requirements, This was even though they had just approved the NOI. The BLSG and the TAC entered into negotiations to settle the issues without going to trial and have agreed that the discussions and counter proposals are confidential and not to be publicly discussed by the respective parties. The Notice of Intent (NOI) for the permit and the responses to the NOI are publicly available. P.Vasey is concerned that the towns are now responsible for additional payments above and beyond the abatement of mosquitoes. It may have been better if the towns had known in advance what was occurring rather than after the fact and then having to be party to this lawsuit. The more people know about the situation is better than having no information. K.Tichacek is concerned that the legal fees are open ended and the TAC is being represented by a free legal entity. Salisbury Select board apologizes for not being proactive about finding 2 representatives for the board, they are now available for assistance and want to be a part of the process for identifying remedies to current issues. A. Doty asked the Salisbury Select Board members what they would like BLSG to do to provide more information to them. They understand they did not have a representative for a long time and they now understand the sensitive nature of the situation. They would have been receiving more information if

they had had a representative. Salisbury is anticipating questions from their constituents. They are very motivated to have two representatives at the table as soon as possible. The Salisbury Select Board asked if they could sit in on the executive session this evening to better understand the legal issues. Motion was made to invite the two select board members from Salisbury to the executive session, motion approved (Moved by J. Whiting 2nd by A. Doty).

4. Minutes from 11/15/18 approved as written (Moved by W. Rausenberger 2nd by J. Whiting).
5. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. General Checking balance is \$62,075.16
 - b. Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement Checking has a balance of \$4,975.22
 - c. Total available funds are \$67,050.38
 - d. Treasurer's report approved (Moved by A. Doty 2nd by B. Lawes).
6. Review of budget 2019-2020
 - a. Salisbury Select board members asked questions regarding line items in the budget which were discussed in detail to help them better respond to questions. The increase in the budget is largely driven by the TAC legal filing. Discussion about the budget. The Board re approved the final budget sent out by Wayne since it contained minor corrections in the costs incurred in 2018 when Wayne closed the books for the year. (Moved by J. Whiting 2nd by A. Doty).
7. Review of Annual Report for the Town Meeting:
 - a. The annual report did not go out with the budgets to the towns, Ben sent the reports to the towns separately. The information that is contained in the annual report can be used at town meetings and the District needs representatives for the town meetings.
8. Report of the Northeast Mosquito Control Association annual meeting:
 - a. Ben, Mike Blaisdell and Kerry attended the annual meeting this year. Ben made some contacts with pesticide suppliers and other mosquito control districts at the conference, they are working together to identify support for the district. Ben also met with Andrea Szylyvian from the EPA. Andrea reported at the annual meeting that there have not been any other complaints or actions initiated in response to the PGP's in the other States in the New England Region. Ben talked to Andrea about BLSG's current issues.
9. Public Relations:
 - a. Website: There are concerns about the ads on the current website and the ability of some people to find the menu. There is a cost for having a paid website. Will researched website costs for the board in the past. The board made the decision to put off making a decision about a paid website because they were not sure if the name of the organization would change. Discussion about how people would be redirected to a new website and when it would make the most sense to make a change like this. Will is going to prepare a cost analysis for changing to a paid website for the next meeting.

- b. Kerry is working on preparing a presentation for school age children with Mike Blaisdell. Kerry submitted an application for use of the card room at the state house for 2020, She asked to be put on a waitlist for this year if another organization cancels. Our presentation materials for the general public need to be finalized in the event this occurs. Ben would like for Kerry to prioritize the adult presentation materials. Kerry has other PR work that can be completed at this time as well. A motion was made to actively begin working on PR projects and Kerry can begin billing for time spent on PR activities. The motion was approved (Moved by S.Belcher 2nd by B.Lawes).
 - c. J.Michael would like to have a copy of the budget to read and then discuss with the Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake board to better understand the financial situation. Jay supports the districts desire to get the support of the public but is concerned that the confidentiality issue may be hindering public support. The next Lake Assoc. meeting is scheduled for 2/7/19.
10. Executive Session:
- a. Motion made to enter executive session with Salisbury Select Board representatives and W. Mathis to discuss current litigation. Motion approved (Moved by A.Doty 2nd by B.Lawton). Executive session began at 8:04PM and ended at 9:00 PM
11. The session returned out of Executive Session at 9 PM. No action was taken.
12. Next Meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, February 21st 2019 at 7:00 PM to provide latest info before Town Meetings.
13. Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM (Moved by B.Lawes 2nd by J.Smith).