

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING – Budget session
Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 4:00 PM

Rutledge Room / Community Center

1. Call to Order: Chairman James F. Hanson called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call by Town Clerk: Also present at roll call, Supervisors Liz Holmes, John Rader, Randy Sorenson and Kirby Foss.
3. Approval of Karen Jess to Archives Committee: Motion by Holmes seconded by Sorenson to approve Karen Jess as a member of the Archive Committee. Motion carried.
4. Log Cabin usage: Motion by Holmes seconded by Sorenson that, prior to renting/leasing the structure, the town board would like to have the Town's Building Inspector, Brett Guilette from Inspection Specialists, LLC complete a thorough on-site inspection of the entire facility the next time he is scheduled to be on the island. Also the Commercial building inspection contract between the town of Washington and Guilette to be re-visited. More information about the building needs to be provided prior to making any decision. Motion carried. Holmes, Foss and Sorenson will look at the Log Cabin tomorrow.
5. Replacement of current Community Van: Supervisor Rader provided three possible vehicles for sale to replace the current Community Van. Motion by Foss seconded by Sorenson to approve Rader to continue negotiations for purchasing one of the three vans presented. The current community van (white one) to be sold "as is." Motion carried.
6. Utility District Billing: Ivan Johnson expressed concern re running out of field spreading room for septage. Spreading on the airport and field called MB-1 were discussed. Ivan provided colored maps of the spreading sites and fields assigned to each pumper. However there was some question as to which pumper is assigned spreading field MB-1 through DNR and what pumper has access in the Carmody computer tracking program. The town chairman and Utility District Manager will contact the DNR to see if splitting field MB-1 between both pumpers is an option. Micki Johnson offered to provide phone information for Chad Cook and Gary Kincaid with the DNR to Chairman Hanson.

Discussion followed re the current practice of billing for Utility District Services. Currently the pumpers provide a service to the customer (including but not limited to removing waste from septic system/holding tank, cleaning filters and any other maintenance necessary). The customer receives a bill from the pumper for this service. The customer receives a second bill from the town office for spreading the waste

whether the waste was spread on a field or in the FAST system. The change to one bill is being reviewed as a cost saving factor to the electors and not meant to be a burden for the pumpers. Further discussion involved Amy Jorgensen's question as to whether it was legal for the pumpers to collect the spreading fee from the customers and then pay the town. Correspondence from the legal attorney for the Town's association has clarified that this would be legal if the pumpers and town board chose to have the pumpers collect the spreading fee as well as their pump out fee, and then pay the town on a regularly scheduled basis. Further discussion followed as to the extra burden the pumpers felt they would be taking upon themselves if they were to add an additional line to each customer's bill. Town Board members made it clear they did not want to burden the pumpers. The pumpers stated that they felt this to not be an optimal time for them to take over billing due to the town board's decision to raise the spreading fee from .02 to .04 cents per gallon as of 01/01/2016. Further discussion followed regarding collecting unpaid bills for the pumpers' services and spreading fees. The chairman stated the town could assist the pumpers in collecting unpaid bills. Further discussion focused on how the pumpers could be compensated for adding the spreading fee on their bills. One proposal was for the Town to provide one month field rental @ \$325 for free. It was suggested the taxpayers would find having one bill to be less of a burden for them. It was ultimately decided that it was too soon to make a determination on how to proceed.

- 7. 2016 Budget discussion: The 2015 Budget may be acted upon. The Board discussed making the revenue and expenditures to more actual. All departments were discussed and in some cases a five year average of line items was reviewed
- 8. Closed Session, as authorized under section 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, compensation and performance of public employees: Motion by Foss Seconded by Sorenson to enter into closed session per SS 19.85(1)(c) Roll Call vote: Holmes – aye, Sorenson – aye, Foss – aye, Rader – aye and Hanson – aye at 5:45 p.m. Motion carried. Will adjourn from closed session.
- 9. Return to open session. Roll call vote. Motion / Discussion on closed session items.
- 10. Adjourn

Respectively Submitted:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| _____ Valerie Carpenter, Clerk/Treasurer | _____ James F. Hanson, Chairman |
| _____ Elizabeth Holmes, Supervisor | _____ Randall Sorensen, Supervisor |
| _____ Kirby Foss, Supervisor | _____ John Rader, Supervisor |