

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2014  
SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT**

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**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Town of Springfield, Vermont Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, September 29, 2014 at the Springfield High School Cafeteria in Springfield, Vermont. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

In attendance were Chair, Kristi Morris, Vice Chair, Stephanie Thompson, and Board Members David Yesman, Peter MacGillivray, and George McNaughton. Also Town Manager, Robert Forguites, Town Comptroller, Jeffrey Mobus, and Town Attorney, Stephen Ankuda.

A motion was made by George McNaughton to go into a Joint Meeting with the Springfield Board of School Directors. The motion was seconded by David Yesman and approved unanimously by the Board.

The attached Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Springfield Board of Selectmen and the Springfield Board of School Directors are made a part of these minutes.

At the conclusion of the Joint Meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Selectmen was made by Stephanie Thompson and seconded by Peter MacGillivray. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM with no further action taken.

**SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT 05156  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS & BOARD OF SELECTMEN JOINT MEETING  
Monday, September 29, 2014**

**Open Meeting**            *Springfield High School Library*

**School Board Present:** Jeanice Garfield, Steve Karaffa, Ed Caron, Laura Ryan, Ken Vandenburg

**Select Board Present:** Kristi Morris, Stephanie Thompson, Peter MacGillivray, David Yesman, George McNaughton.

**Also Present:** Robert Forguites, Town Manager; Jeffrey Mobus, Comptroller; Stephen Ankuda, Town Attorney; Zach McLaughlin, Superintendent; Steve Hier, Director of Fiscal Services; Doug Johnston, Police Chief; Mark Fountain, Police Lieutenant; Ryan Cooney, Student Rep.; Judy Spaulding, Recording Secretary.

Jeanice Garfield, School Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Kristi Morris, Select Board Chair, asked for a motion from the Select Board to enter into a joint meeting with the School Board.

**MOTION:**            George McNaughton moved and David Yesman seconded to hold a joint meeting with the Springfield Board of School Directors

**Vote:**    All in favor

**Motion passed**

Jeanice explained that the purpose of this meeting is to allow the two board joint action steps to move forward in a collaborative manner. The hope is to set a tone for Springfield as leaders.

- **Meeting conduct:** All participants are heard; No criticism of ideas; All participants will be able to complete what they want to say without interruption; open discussion as representatives of the citizens of Springfield

There will be time for public comments at the end of the meeting.

The agenda for this meeting was discussed and formulated this summer by Bob Forguites, Kristi Morris, Jeanice Garfield & Zach McLaughlin.

**1) Joint or collective purchasing**

Bob stated that the town and school join together to purchase fuel oil, propane gas and copy paper. That is about all we have a common need to purchase jointly for a cost savings.

**2) Police Resources and the Schools**

- a) School Resource Officer (SRO); acceptance of mutual concept
  - i) George M. wanted clarification what the SRO role would be. Doug Johnston said the duties have not really been identified. The job description and requirements will need to be developed jointly between the school administrators and the police department that everyone can agree upon. It needs to include what we want the SRO to achieve in the 4 years. One of the expected duties would be around truancy issues and working with parents to get the kids in school as well as assist with security in the schools. The question was posed if there a need and a desire in procuring an officer to have in the schools with the increased drug activity in the town. Zach stated that good SRO is someone the kids are in touch with on a daily basis. The kids would learn to trust the officer as someone they can talk to. They would be

present at school activities, such as sporting events and the office could encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities. Having a positive interaction with police is so important with our families in town. The SRO would help build a good relationship between the Police Department and the school. The officer would mainly be at the high school and would spend some time at the middle school. The Police Department can go into elementary schools to introduce themselves so the younger children will become more comfortable with the officers. The SRO would be employed as a year round person so they will still have contact and continuity in the summer. Doug stated that there is special training needed for a SRO. When an officer goes through the academy, they are gone for six months. The town and school would collaborate in the hiring of this officer. The SRO would report to police chief and would also operate as a colleague with school administration. Grants have been applied in the past but they have been rejected for various reasons. A COPS in School Grant was awarded today for schools that applied last spring. The decision to pursue the SRO position needs to be made soon in order to apply for the grant in May, for the next school year. There will need to be some funding to be budgeted beyond what a grant will provide. The award is \$125,000 spread out over 3 years. The grant requires a certified officer. The cost would be approximately \$210,000 over 4 years including the cost of the officer plus benefits. The fourth year would be totally at our local expense. There is a possibility that the town and the school would share in this financial responsibility. As it is hard to find a certified officer at this time, it might be necessary to hire someone who is currently in the department rather than a new officer. Zach reported that last year drug offences were two at Riverside and five at the high school. The public's perception is inflated on what is happening in the schools. The cost of having police at school public events is a factor but it is proving to be very effective and valuable.

- b) Police Officers in and around School; in for visits to primary and elementary schools
  - i) The foot patrol has had a positive effect in the downtown area. It is a step in the right direction to give public what they are demanding – creating a police presence. Police could visit the schools to help build a positive relationship. Zach stated that there would be no pushback from the school administrators. It would need to be carefully communicated with parents so they feel comfortable with the idea and reason for their presence. Jenny Anderson has worked at elementary years for 25 years and stated that having the police visit at the elementary schools would be a benefit as some kids are afraid and don't trust the officers.

### **3) Vacant or Partially Vacant School Buildings**

- a) Park Street feasibility grant application and status of Park Street School Committee
  - i) Ed Caron stated that the building committee has met and they will present findings and propose a final decision at the school board meeting next Monday night. The question whether to keep it open or not will be answered on Monday. David Yesman was told back in April to hold off on any more meetings until an attorney looked into ownership of building. There is a need to move forward. Tami Stagner runs a program out of Park Street and she is concerned that no one has spoken to her.
- b) East School
  - i) Ed Caron stated that East School will be in a realtor's hands soon.

### **4) Elm Hill and Union Street Schools**

- a) Elm Hill School Side Walk Grant Application; update
  - i) Bob reported that the town applied for a grant for \$15,000 with \$15,000 match to do preliminary work on the sidewalks. Need bids from firms to do the work on sidewalks and a retaining wall near Elm Hill.

- b) Elm Hill School and Union Street Parking Issues and traffic flow
  - i) Zach reported that the traffic flow has been a major issue in the past but recently he has not heard as much about problems. He did state that there is not enough parking at either school. There was not enough built when the buildings were renovated. George stated that there is no neighborhood alliance around Elm Hill. There is an alliance at Union and Park Streets. George suggested having Martha Potter and/or Lisa Hall attend a neighborhood alliance meeting. George stated that there are traffic problems at Union Street School and questioned if some roads should be turned into one way. Susan White, a resident said traffic gets very congested on Union Street at dismissal time. In the morning the flow is good. The afternoon dismissal is where the problem occurs when people arrive early to pick up their children. The staffs at both schools are continuing to work to move things along faster. Tami Stagner said that they feel that the staff is doing a great job in greeting kids every day and it helps in the transition from home to school is a positive way. Paul Stagner asked if the number of students riding the buses have declined. Zach said he feels that the percentage of kids riding is up.

## 5) Development of Coordinated Multi-Entity Plan

- a) Illegal drug/gang activity; conversation about what happens at school if incident occurs and how to best work together
  - i) There is a need to develop a written plan to implement a strategy. Because of last Monday's meeting with Chief Baker from Rutland there isn't a need for much more discussion. That forum was very good. All town and school leaders along with other town agencies need to work together to form strong leadership in the town. The town is trying to move forward in a positive way. George said that Judge Hudson was supposed to present a motion but wasn't acted upon. There needs to be something in writing. The group is taking steps to pull in agencies to collaborate different resources as prevention is a huge piece. Change takes a long time to happen and it is important to keep a positive attitude

## 6) Emergency Response Plan/Town Emergency Plan

- a) The Police Department is working with school administration and have an emergency plan in place. Each school has its own written plan. A "Table Talk" exercise has been planned for October 8 at 12:30 in the Café of the Tech Center. The State will put forth scenarios on what responses would be to a variety of emergencies. This will eventually lead to a full scale exercise. This will create an opportunity for relationships with emergency entities and the schools to be built. Crisis teams from the schools will be there to watch. Kevin Anderson along with the Fire & Police Departments have worked with the state to put this exercise together. The hospital is also involved. Bob reported that the town also has an emergency plan in place. They need to test it to make sure it is sufficient.

## 7) Energy Conservation Measures

- a) Select Board has a committee to study heating, cooling, lighting and insulation
  - i) There is a committee of five to do an inventory of town buildings and find where they can save energy. LED street lights have been added around town. They have found funding to insulate the town hall. The town is looking at saving energy through these changes.
- b) Solar project in North Springfield and net metering proposal
  - i) The Winstanley solar project is a 500 KW installation that they have approached the school, town and hospital to purchase shares. David Yesman said that the energy committee is in favor of net metering. He asked if the school is interested in net metering from the Winstanley project. The School Board is looking for more information before moving forward. Steve Hier has attended meetings to gather more information. Steve H. stated that there is a long term commitment and being part of a larger consortium of schools could get them better deal. Steve Ankuda said would need to have a vote to

purchase electricity through a contract for 20 years. The contract would need to be signed by December 31 but would be subject to ratification by the March vote. The North Springfield Action Group (NOSAG) is favorable towards the solar. Bob Kischko, chair of NOSAG, cautions the town and school to retain a firm to study this long-term commitment. He will email an article about what the true cost of electricity will be and suggests doing your homework before making a decision and to hire a professional to work through contracts. Winstanley has indicated its desire to help the town of Springfield. The project will be taxed on the amount of energy it produces so it could be a significant increase in the grand list. This is on the Select Board agenda for their next meeting.

#### **8) Future Joint Board Meetings**

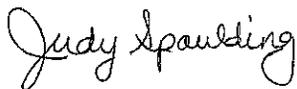
The group felt a top priority was to meet to discuss the SRO as a joint board soon. Each board will discuss individually and communicate back to the other to set a date no later than beginning of November.

#### **9) Citizen Comments**

Comments were interspersed throughout the evening. Kevin Anderson thanked the boards for getting together for this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:55 with no motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Spaulding, Recording Secretary