

**Town of Livermore  
Board of Selectpersons  
October 7, 2013 Public Hearing and Meeting  
Minutes**

**Present:** Megan Dion, *Chair*, Peter Castonguay, Mark Chretien, Rodney Newman, John Wakefield

**Public Hearing**

1. The Public Hearing was called to order.
2. The Liquor License and Special Amusement Permit applications filed by the Carriage House Café were reviewed.
3. No public comment was offered.
4. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

**Meeting**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. The Minutes of the September 23, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.
3. On a motion by Mr. Wakefield, seconded by Mr. Castonguay, the Liquor License and Special Amusement Permit applications for the Carriage House Café were unanimously accepted.
4. Bids for 3,500 yards of winter sand were opened. They were : Jean Castonguay Logging and Excavation - \$10.50 per yard for sand, \$1.00 per yard additional to mix fresh salt with existing sand; Maynard & Sons Trucking - \$9.00 per yard for sand, no bid provided for mixing fresh salt with existing sand; and R.S. Pidacks - \$6.25 per yard for sand, \$1.00 per yard additional to mix fresh salt with existing sand. On a motion by Mr. Wakefield, seconded by Mr. Newman, it was unanimously agreed to award the bid to R.S. Pidacks.
5. A single bid for the installation of a new 48-inch culvert on River Road was opened. It was submitted by Jean Castonguay Logging and Excavating in the amount of \$8,410. Highway Foreman Roger Ferland said the amount was about what he was expecting the project to cost. On a motion by Mr. Newman, seconded by Mrs. Dion, it was unanimously agreed to award the bid to Jean Castonguay Logging and Excavating.
6. Bids for the installation of three new 24-inch culverts on South Road were opened. They were: Jean Castonguay Logging and Excavating - \$5,664; and Gordon Excavating - \$6,600. Following clarification that the Castonguay bid covered all three culverts, a motion was offered by Mr. Newman, seconded by Mr. Castonguay, and unanimously approved.
7. Livermore's representatives to the RSU 73 Board of Directors, namely Diane Gould, Tim Madden and Cindy Young, were introduced. Mr. Wakefield said it had been suggested that the town look into the costs of withdrawal from RSU 73, and that an ad-hoc committee is being formed to do that. Mrs. Young agreed it is a good idea to look into, especially given that many taxpayers believe that Livermore faces a large financial exposure should anything drastic happen to the Verso mill. On the other hand, she likes the renewed sense of community that consolidation brought. Mrs. Gould said Livermore has paid more than Livermore Falls for years and doesn't see that changing. She added that the students seem very happy with the consolidation – that it's the parents that don't care for it as much. She believes it has had a positive outcome for the students as more courses are now available. Mr. Madden said he was on the

SAD 36 board when Fayette withdrew, and the financial impact on that community was substantially larger. He believes the RSU 73 school consolidation process is moving along nicely and that the students seem to appreciate being together. He spoke highly of the new high school principal, TJ Plourde, who is making sure rules are being followed. He said if Livermore were to split from RSU 73 and wanted to operate an elementary school, it would probably have to purchase the Gibbs Mill Road school from the district. He said without a local elementary, the town would have to pay tuition for its students in all grades. Mr. Wakefield said he remembered the Fayette split, and that community's belief that their share of district expenses was too high (based on value, not enrollment), and that SAD 36 rejected as too expensive their desire to have a local elementary school. He looked back into his records on the present cost-sharing within RSU 73. He said Jay pays roughly 64 percent of the local costs, Livermore pays 20 percent and Livermore Falls pays 16 percent. Livermore would be affected if Jay's municipal valuation decreased due to a reduction in the mill's value. But, he said the handful of people he's talked to don't support a separation. Mrs. Dion said she sees more potential now that the high schools are consolidated, particularly with more educational options for the students. She added that many residents feel that Livermore has little control, but believes the school board is working well together. Residents' biggest concerns, she said, are teacher contracts and the "what if" scenarios with the mill. Mrs. Gould said she believes communication is the key, adding that the prior week's joint meeting with the three town boards and school board was very good in that regard. She said she prefers open discussion as opposed to the rumor mill. She hopes those meetings continue. Mr. Newman said he takes responsibility for starting the withdrawal conversation. He's spoken with many people who are frustrated that this year's school budget failed in two of the towns, yet was still approved because of the larger turnout in the third. He said he's also heard the same concerns over teacher contracts and the present funding formula should the mill's value decline. Mr. Wakefield said the funding formula can be based on valuation, student enrollment, or a combination of the two. Mr. Newman said he would like to see the issue go back to the people – to give them a choice - though he doesn't see enough support for withdrawal. Mrs. Gould said the public needs to understand that the state doesn't give what it used to, so the biggest challenge is how to get the greatest amount of funds to the kids. She added that the state funding issue is very different now than it was pre-consolidation. Mrs. Dion said the town is forming an ad-hoc committee in order to gather information. Administrator Kurt Schaub said there is a formal process for withdrawal from an RSU within the law, and he senses that people are not yet willing to go that far, that they just want information on the town's options. Mrs. Dion said the town is still looking for volunteers to serve on the ad-hoc Committee on Education. Mrs. Young agreed to serve, provided her participation isn't taken as an indication that she favors withdrawal. Mr. Wakefield said it would be helpful to have a teacher involved, too. Mr. Schaub said he is aware of two volunteers so far. It was agreed that a group of about 10 volunteers would be helpful. Mrs. Dion asked if there were any public questions. Resident Dwight Hines said that, if this effort is strictly for financial reasons, then he has additional questions. He asked if there is much parental involvement with the schools. Mrs. Gould said the principals and teachers could best answer that question. Mr. Hines suggested that a high level of food stamp recipients suggests a low level of involvement. Mr. Newman said that type of question is off topic and the school directors were thanked for their participation in the discussion.

8. Mr. Ferland said the agreed-upon repair work on the most troublesome of the River Road cross culverts has been completed. He said they opted not to dig up the culvert as there was no sign of damage to it. He said the existing gravel at the site was removed, and new material was put in its place and compacted. Both ends were given a cover of fabric and riprap. Mr. Ferland said the property owner said he'd try to divert some of the water away from that site, to reduce the flow under the road. He said they also added additional cold mix to the other problem culverts in that area to reduce the severity of the dips dip that develop in late winter/early spring. It was also agreed to look into removing trees from two "cold spots" on River Road. Mr. Ferland also reported that there are again pothole issues on Keith Street that could be hazardous to town trucks when plowing this coming winter. Mr. Schaub said the residents were sent a letter in 2012 advising them to make repairs. Some repairs were made, with the understanding that more work would be done over the summer of 2013. The road was originally a private, subdivision road on which a public easement was granted in the late 1980s in exchange for winter maintenance. Repairs remain the responsibility of the property owners. On a motion by Mr. Newman, seconded by Mr.

Castonguay, it was unanimously agreed to send the same letter again this year. Mr. Newman offered a motion to discontinue plowing Nelson Pond Road. He said that he grew up at the nearby orchard and that the town didn't start plowing to the stone farmhouse until years later. Mr. Schaub said there is a process for the Selectpersons to follow when decisions are made on winter road maintenance, and the deadline for that was September 30. Further, he said, there are several roads that have serve mainly as driveways were the subject of winter maintenance discontinuance efforts several years ago. He said he's done some research into them and, in the case of Nelson Pond Road, the deed to that property describes the road and its limits, going back to at least the early 1960s. Mr. Newman withdrew his order. Mr. Ferland also reported there has been beaver activity on Goding Road and that Israelson Road is scheduled for paving within the next week.

9. Mr. Schaub presented his Treasurer and Administrator reports. He also provided a chart of Excise Tax revenue, which indicates the year-to-date totals are still ahead of fiscal 2013. He reported on communication from County Clerk Patricia Fournier regarding a vacancy on the County Budget Committee. It was agreed to support Jim Collins as a replacement, if he is still interested in serving. He also asked about ordering water coolers. His research indicates the best deal is with Glen Rock. He said his understanding was that coolers would be ordered for the Transfer Station and Highway Garage, and whether or not to get one for the Town Office would depend on the outcome of a water test. The test results indicate the water is satisfactory for drinking. Mr. Castonguay asked about the Highway Garage. Mr. Schaub said, and Mr. Ferland agreed, that water has a distinct odor that doesn't show up in the Community Building or Library, both of which are also served by the same well. The water was tested two years ago, with a satisfactory result, but the odor persists. Mr. Castonguay asked if there was an odor at the Town Office. Mr. Schaub said he has not noticed an odor, and said it appeared the rust issue in the toilets as subsided with the installation of the new pressure tank. Mr. Castonguay asked Mr. Schaub if he has drank the water. Mr. Schaub said he has, that it isn't the best tasting in the world, but has not had issue with it. On a motion by Mr. Castonguay, seconded by Mr. Wakefield, it was unanimously agreed to provide water coolers at the Transfer Station and Highway Garage. Mr. Schaub reported that both he and Mrs. Dion have attended educational programs where it was suggested the town adopt a policy concerning Freedom of Access requests, and particularly with regard to costs incurred by the town. He said the town has charged 15 cents per photocopy for 15 or more years, and \$1.00 per page for fax services. He presented an informal survey of copy and fax fees conducted by Town Clerk Renda Guild, showing that we are at the low end for copying and about average for fax costs. He also stressed that the town is not in the business of providing photocopying and fax services for residents, but that staff does perform those services for residents who just need one or two copies or are otherwise in a bind. He said that he would draft a Freedom of Access policy to include the new fees, once they are established. On a motion by Mr. Newman, seconded by Mr. Castonguay, it was unanimously agreed to charge 50 cents per page for photocopies, \$1.00 per page for fax services, and \$15.00 per hour after the first hour for staff time spent on Freedom of Access requests. Mr. Schaub also reported on a business directional sign request from R.E. Lowell Lumber (no objection), and agreed not to take an ad in the Spruce Mountain High School yearbook as it was not budgeted, but would consider it when budgeting for fiscal 2015. The Preliminary State Valuation was also presented.

10. There was no new business.

11. Resident Dwight Hines said the correspondence was lacking a response to an email he had sent to Mr. Schaub. The response was received – it just wasn't attached to the meeting packet.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt E. Schaub