

Approved Minutes: Oct 18, 2012
Building Committee
Middletown Springs, Vermont

Members Present: Dave Munyak, Patty Kenyon, Patty McWilliams, Maureen McCormack, David Wright, Fred Bradley, Michael Beattie, Tom Hurcomb, and Laura Castle

Public Present: Bob and Winsome Moran

Guests Present: Karen Davis, Ira Town Clerk, Patty McCoy, Poultney Town Clerk; and Ann Singiser, Town Clerk, and her husband Steve, a member of Mendon's Town Office building committee.

I. Minutes:

A. Minutes from 10/3/12. Motion to approve Oct 3rd minutes with a second. All in favor.

II. Public Comments: Do we need meeting room in the new town office? Discussion followed.

III. Town Clerk Round Table: Dave M. opened the discussion by welcoming the guest clerks and inviting all to partake of refreshments. He introduced M. Beattie as one of our architects and spoke of Tom Keefe's, Vermont Preservation historical consultant, and how he was able to suggest how we might make the new building fit into the character of the green. He then gave a brief summary of work in obtaining funding to get the site ready for building. He invited the guest clerks to address the committee on the pro and cons of their present town office.

Poultney: population 3400. P. McCoy, spoke first saying her building was completed in 1968 and is now very overcrowded. She said she would champion a call for a large vault as the use of the vault had grown way beyond the original projections. They had lost their town records in a fire in 1962 and they have no records prior to 1962. Both Poultney and Mendon said they have the latest in movable storage.

Mendon: population of 1100 with a taxable resident base of over 800 completed their town office in 2005. Ann Singiser stated that the size of their vault is big enough at present and has room for more sliding shelf storage. Their new office required the removal of an existing historic schoolhouse. They have a large conference room down stairs that can accommodate 45 to 50 people as well as a meeting room on the second floor. The second floor accommodates storage that does not need to be in a vault or have frequent use. The building is handicap accessible. Ann Singiser and the other clerks spoke about the need to be able to keep in view those who come to do research.

Mendon had several town meetings to keep the residents informed.

A discussion followed on the needs, not apparent to many, on why the town office must have a public meeting room of some size.

Population in Ira is a little over 400 with plenty of parking at its site. Mendon has about 25 parking spaces. Parking is a huge problem for Poultney town office with just room for 5 vehicles.

A discussion ensued on privacy needs in the town office. Patty McCoy said she is also the treasurer and often wishes she had privacy to conduct treasurer business and has at times to use the manager's office to do so. All felt the treasurer should have a workspace with privacy.

Mendon has a public computer for land record use.

A discussion followed on security and what kinds of systems were in place for fire and crime as well as desktop security for the clerk. The new town office of Ira and Mendon were built with the very latest in electronic capability.

Mendon total cost was \$565,000. Mendon had a reserve fund of \$300,00 and was bonded for \$275,000. They also received some small grants- one for \$25,000 for the parking lot.

Ira financed all of their costs and did not seek grant money. They were bonded for \$350,000 but the total costs came in for less. They have a 20-year mortgage. The USDA out of Brattleboro supervised Ira's bond. The town clerk sent construction bills to USDA before any money was released. Mendon used a VT Municipal Bond bank. Mendon also received a USDA disability grant.

The Wells Town Clerk was invited but was unable to attend. She and the other clerks invited the BC to tour their respective buildings.
Move to adjourn at 8:28PM

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen McCormack, Clerk