

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING- SPECIAL

Wednesday, January 31st, 2018

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Bixby, Clerk
Robert Congdon, Jr.
Michael Klopchin, Chair
Daniel Pinkowski
Richard Wilbur (A)

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00pm

PURPOSE OF MEETING AS WARNED: To discuss the final report of the Committee of Highway Operation and Function.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (4), Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Road Commissioner, Alf Strom-Olsen, Randle Kinne, Arthur Menard, Janet Keefe, Marjorie Southard, Joel Baker, Ed Baker, Cash Ruane, Rick Bersaw, John Holden, Gloria Menard, Eric McLellan, Michael Pedone.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. There were none.

DISCUSSION OF FINAL REPORT: The Board Chair stated the purpose of the meeting, and asked Alf Strom-Olsen present the findings. Mr. Strom-Olsen relayed the history of the formation of the committee, and reviewed the report page by page. (SEE ATTACHEMENT 1) It was emphasized that safety on the town roads was the number one priority.

Selectman Pinkowski exited at 6:14 pm, and returned at 6:15 pm.

Mr. Strom-Olsen reviewed the financial findings of the committee, which confirmed that Clarendon's highway spending was consistently higher than surrounding towns, and advised that approximately 200K would need to be cut from spending to bring Clarendon down to the average spending level.

The need for communications and cooperation between the Select Board and the Road Commissioner and Crew was stressed.

Trucks were discussed, and whether the larger trucks were too big for the small back roads, and if smaller trucks could be utilized. The Road Commissioner was asked if light maintenance was done by the road crew, he responded yes, and it was suggested that maintenance logs for each individual piece of equipment should be kept.

The cost to replace current Town equipment was discussed, and the Committee advised that with the current rate of replacement for the Town equipment, the equipment fund would have to be raised from 55K to 150K per year.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING- SPECIAL

Wednesday, January 31st, 2018

The Committee advised that road salt was being wasted, and it was suggested that salt only be used on bad spots before and during a snow event, but not widely used during the event as it would just be plowed off, then to be used for clean up after the event.

The Committee advised that the data supported that the Town fleet be reduced by one truck and that the road crew also be reduced by one person.

The Board Chair asked if the Committee felt that it was being heard by the Select Board, Janet Keefe responded that action was necessary. Marjorie Southard also stated that she would like to see action from the Board on the Committee's recommendation. John Holden stated that discussion with the Road Crew was necessary to ensure cooperation.

Selectman Congdon stated that road policies are the Select Board's responsibility, and that the Road Commissioner acts upon the orders of the Select Board. He advised that some of the upcoming changes would be painful, but that he was not looking to lay off any road crew just yet. He again emphasized that the roads were a shared responsibility between the Road Commissioner and Select Board.

On call pay was discussed, and whether the Road Crew should be paid snow day pay, and get paid from the time they are called out for an event, or from the time they arrive at the garage. Marjorie Southard stated that she believed that the Clarendon Road Crew worked hard. Eric McLellan suggested that the Road Crew could get snow day pay, or travel time pay, but not both.

A recess was taken from 7:34pm to 7:40pm.

Mr. Strom-Olsen reiterated that cooperation with the road crew was essential, and mentioned that local roads program was a resource. The Road Commissioner stated that a few Select Board members to communicate on a regular basis with the Road Crew would be helpful, the Board agreed. A recommendation was made that a report from the Road Commissioner on road activities be submitted to the Board every two weeks. The Board Chair asked the Administrative Assistant to place Road Commissioner's Report on future agendas.

Randy Kinne read aloud the operations recommendations from the report. Hourly pay was discussed, as well as the recommendation that a time clock be used in conjunction with time sheets. Breaks were discussed, and the Administrative Assistant was asked to research labor law on breaks.

The sand policy was discussed, and the abuses thereof. Maintenance of private roads was discouraged by the committee. The Committee indicated that a new Town Garage was not an immediate need. However, after the savings are initiated and after the equipment fund is fully funded, the future savings could then be applied to establish a Town Garage building fund.

Ed Baker spoke to the benefits of brine usage for pretreating roads, and spoke to the effect of over usage of salt on ground water. The equipment needed for brine was discussed.

Randy Kinne spoke to crack sealing and its ability to extend the life of paved roads.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING- SPECIAL

Wednesday, January 31st, 2018

Ed Baker spoke of a system that could be plugged into the Town trucks to aid in maintenance, the Administrative Assistant agreed to research it.

A previous issue with Earle's over charging for a service was discussed, and the Board agreed to send a letter to Earle's regarding the problem.

Mr. Strom-Olsen stated that the Committee was willing to continue working with the Board.

The Board Chair stated that at the next meeting a date would be set for another discussion on the recommendations.

John Holden commended the Board and the Committee for their efforts.

It was agreed that the report would be attached to the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments were taken throughout the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:58 pm, Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

SIGNED: _____ Michael Klopchin, Chair /s

SIGNED: _____ Robert Bixby, Clerk/s

These minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Heather Kent, Administrative Assistant, and were approved on February 12th, 2018.