

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING- REGULAR

Monday, November 27th, 2017

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

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

CALL TO ORDER: 6:13 p.m.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (5), Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, George Ambrose, Ed Baker, Joel Baker, Marjorie Southard, Cash Ruane.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Administrative Assistant asked that the minutes of October 23rd be added to the agenda to correct an error, The Board Chair asked that an executive session to discuss possible litigation be added after minutes approval. There were no objections.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular – November 13th, 2017: Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the minutes as written, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Select Board Meeting Regular – October 23rd, 2017 (ADDED TO AGENDA): The Administrative Assistant stated that the phrase “265K was collected” needed to be corrected to “26K remained uncollected”. Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LITIGATION (ADDED TO AGENDA): Selectman Congdon motioned to enter executive session not to exceed five minutes, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed. At 6:16 p.m., the Select Board and the Administrative Assistant entered into executive session. At 6:25 p.m., upon return to the public Selectman Congdon motioned to exit executive session, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

HIGHWAY: The Road Commissioner was not present. Selectman Bixby expressed his concern about the cost of recent bill for cleaning out a culvert, and asked about the possibility of the Road Crew doing culvert clean outs themselves. After a brief discussion, the Board asked the Administrative Assistant to ask the Road Commissioner about the issue.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL WARRANTS: All new warrants and warrants previously signed by the designated Select Board member were approved and signed by all Select Board members.

GUEST: George Ambrose, School Negotiations Update: Mr. Ambrose updated the Board as to the progress of the Town wide reappraisal. Approximately two hundred properties had been completed so far, and Walker Mountain Road was scheduled to be completed next, with the east side of town being

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slated to be addressed in the summer of 2018. The state mandate for contiguous parcels under the same property owner to be placed on one tax bill was discussed.

Mr. Ambrose advised that negotiations between the School Board and the Teachers' Union had to date not been successful. The School Board was striving to hold to level funding; the teachers' and the School Board's demands were examined. Working conditions had been agreed upon but financials had yet to be determined, including health insurance contribution and pay raises. Mr. Ambrose stated that the School Board could impose a contract, and the teachers could accept or strike. The time frame of an imposed contract was discussed. Selectman Pinkowski questioned whether the teachers' union was operating under an agenda separate from the teachers. The Board thanked Mr. Ambrose for the update.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (10 minutes): There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

Conflict of Interest Policy: The Administrative Assistant advised that the conflict of interest policy must be amended to comply with the law by 2019. The Board asked the Administrative Assistant to research the issue and present the Board with options.

Morton Property: After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to advertise bids for this property as previously agreed without abating penalties and interest.

ANR – Update: The Board Chair advised that there was no update at the moment. Marjorie Southard asked if there was site visit with the attorney that it made public so that the public could attend. The Board Chair stated that he would ask the attorney about the issue.

Fuel Prices: The Administrative Assistant advised that she had contacted Champlain Plumbing and Heating as to fuel pricing. Fuel storage at the garage was discussed, and when a new tank might need to be purchased. The Board agreed that a filter on the thousand gallon fuel tank was needed. Selectman Congdon motioned that Champlain Plumbing and heating be fuels supplier for the Town's buildings for the 2017/2018 season, Selectman Pinkowski seconded. Selectman Congdon amended his motion to include placing a filter on the 1000 gallon tank at the garage, Selectman Pinkowski seconded the amended motion, the amended motion passed unopposed. Selectman Congdon motioned that the Town contract with Keyser energy for propane for the garage and transfer station, and that the remaining credits on the Town's account be shifted to the propane contract, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

School Choice Proclamation – Discussion: The Board agreed not to proclaim a school choice week. Selectman Congdon stated his desire that the Board approve a School Choice week, but would recuse himself due to his conflict of interest of employment at a school choice school.

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TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer introduced Kelly Jakubowski as the new assistant treasurer, and thanked Gloria Menard for her service as the previous assistant.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT: The Administrative Assistant reminded the Board of the scheduled budget meeting on the 29th.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: Selectman Pinkowski stated that his desire that the Road Commissioner attend Select Board meetings. The Board agreed to ask the Road Commissioner to attend meetings. Selectman Congdon advised that he had been approached by a Wallingford citizen with concern about the river corridors in Wallingford.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:18 p.m., 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 December 11th, 2017.