

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, January 11th, 2016

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Bixby, Clerk
Robert Congdon, Jr.
Michael Klopchin, Chair
Arthur Knox
Richard Wilbur

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (5), Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Road Commissioner. Also present were George Ambrose, Doug Bradley, Cindy Davis, Shelley Lutz, Marjorie Southard, and Mark Kelley from PACE. Selectman Congdon arrived at 6:27 p.m.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair asked if there were any objections to moving Mr. Ambrose's presentation to immediately follow minute approval, as he had another commitment; there were no objections.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular – December 28th, 2015: Selectman Knox stated he was abstaining from this discussion, as he was not present at said meeting. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Select Board Meeting Special – December 10th, 2015: The minutes were corrected to show that Selectmen Congdon and Wilbur exited the meeting upon recusing themselves from the discussion of the Congdon Farm Drainage Project. The minutes were approved with the corrections.

GUEST: GEORGE AMBROSE, ACT 46 UPDATE (out of order from agenda): Mr. Ambrose gave an update on the progress of the Act 46 Study Committee; ballot composition is currently being worked on, and a public letter will be going out that details the meeting schedule. Selectman Knox asked how Mr. Ambrose felt the school board consolidation is being accepted by the public, Mr. Ambrose stated that a portion of the population was against the change, but he did not think the State would change its position even if the consolidation was voted down. A brief discussion on the effect the consolidation would have on taxes followed, and Mr. Ambrose detailed the make-up of the prospective new school board, and informed the Board that the members of the new school board would be town voted, meaning the representative from a town would be voted in by their town alone, and if for some reason a member must resign, the Select Board would appoint the replacement.

HIGHWAY: The Road Commissioner was present and participated in discussion.

Bridge 11 Signage update: The Administrative Assistant and Road Commissioner informed the Board of the amount of signs the State mandated for the Bridge 11 detour. The Treasurer advised that the cost would have to be monitored; the Road Commissioner was instructed to look into the possibility of renting the signs. The public questioned why the State was not absorbing the cost of the signs, the Road Commissioner responded that the contractor for the bridge project was only responsible for road closure signs, not detour signs.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, January 11th, 2016

Selectman Congdon arrived at 6:27 p.m. to participate in discussion.

Quarterline Road: Shelley Lutz informed the Board of an outcropping of rock on a section of Quarterline Road that is narrow, and the danger it presents for accidents. The subject of widening the road was discussed, and whether to notify landowners of the potential widening. The Treasurer advised that there was no money in the budget unless another project was forfeited. Other options for getting rid of the rock were discussed, and the Board Chair stated that the Board would look at the rock and keep the project in mind. Speeding on the road was also discussed, and Selectman Wilbur stated he would bring the matter to the deputy's attention.

Road Commissioner Report: The Road Commissioner informed the Board that he had looked at a Kenworth truck for the pending truck purchase, and determined that it had only 7" ground clearance with an attached plow. He was concerned that this would be a potential issue, and cause damage to the truck when going over roads of varied surface height. Other trucks were then discussed; Selectman Bixby motioned that the Board consider the Mack truck for discussion, Selectman Wilbur seconded. The Mack truck was discussed, with a body from either Tenco or Viking. The Road Commissioner stated he would like to go with the Viking body, the Board agreed. Selectman Congdon motioned to pursue the Mack truck with the Viking body, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Selectman Bixby asked the Road Commissioner if the Town's salt was back from Rutland Town, and if a citizen's concern about a tree had been addressed. The Road Commissioner responded that the salt was back, and that the tree would be taken care of the next day, as recently it had been too windy.

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: MARK KELLY, PACE PRESENTATION: Mark Kelley appeared to answer questions from the board on the PACE (property assessed clean energy) program. It was explained that PACE is a low interest loan program for energy efficient home improvements; a Town must vote to be a PACE community for the citizens to access these loans. After a lengthy question period and discussion, the Board agreed not to put the PACE question on the ballot, stating that most citizens would not understand the program, and asked Mr. Kelley to perhaps come back in the future and hold a public meeting for education on the program, which would also gauge interest. The Board thanked Mr. Kelley for appearing before them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (10 minutes): There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Health Officer: The Administrative Assistant informed the Board that the Town had received a letter of resignation from the Health Officer, stating as of January 1st she would be the assistant to the new Health Officer until August 31st, 2016. The Board instructed the Administrative Assistant to obtain a formal letter of interest from Richard Griffith so that the recommendation to the State could be made.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, January 11th, 2016

Zoning Administrator: The Administrative Assistant gave an update to the Board that the current Zoning Administrator is resigning as of January 28th, and currently there is no interest in the position. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns had been contacted as to what the Board's options were. The Board could appoint a Select Board member as an interim Zoning Administrator; the VLCT also suggested that the Regional Planning Commission would have access to a network of Zoning Administrators that might be helpful. Selectman Congdon suggested that the RRPL not be contacted until the 28th, so as not to deter Clarendon residents that might be interested. Putting an advertisement in the paper was briefly discussed but deemed too costly. The Board Chair instructed the Administrative Assistant to contact contractors who might be interested in the position, and to keep the Board informed.

Garvey Nissan Act 250: Selectman Bixby recused himself from any discussion on Garvey Nissan due to a conflict of interest. The Board reviewed a proposed letter sent by Garvey Nissan's attorney in support of the Act 250 permit. After a brief discussion, the Board opted not to sign the letter as presented, disagreeing with the statement that the Town has no designated Village Centers, and wishing to change "the Select Board will attend" to "will make every effort to attend" any hearings. The Administrative Assistant was instructed to edit the letter; Selectman Congdon motioned for the Board to sign the letter once edits were made, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed, with Selectman Bixby recusing himself.

The Board reviewed and completed the Municipal Impact Survey for Garvey's Nissan, Selectman Knox motioned that the Board Chair sign the survey and that it be sent to Mr. Garvey's attorney, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed, with Selectman Bixby recusing himself.

West Clarendon Cemetery: The Board reviewed an estimate from Kyle Taylor to remove a dead tree from West Clarendon Cemetery, stating the cost at \$500-\$600. The Treasurer confirmed that there were enough funds in the Cemetery Fund. Selectman Congdon motioned that the Board Chair sign the estimate from Kyle Taylor, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Memorandum of Understanding – Congdon Farm: Selectmen Congdon and Wilbur recused themselves from this discussion due to a conflict of interest. Selectman Bixby asked if the Board Chair had spoken to the Congdons about the work done and if they were satisfied. The Board Chair stated that he had not, but would bring the Congdons the memorandum and speak to them. The issue was tabled until the January 25th.

Town Plan: The Administrative Assistant informed the Board that the Planning Commission had formally passed the draft of the Town Plan on to the Select Board, and the Board must now schedule two hearings, in not less than 30 days but not more than 120 days, to receive public input and review the Plan. After a brief discussion, the Board scheduled the first of the hearings for February 15th, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. Marjorie Southard voiced her concern that the Planning Commission had gone against statute when making changes to the plan; the Board Chair asked her to bring her concerns to the Board at the February 15th hearing.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, January 11th, 2016

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): Cindy Davis asked about the status of the Clarendon Flats Cemetery fence repair, she was answered that the Administrative Assistant was having difficulty getting companies to respond to her inquiries, but effort would be renewed in the spring.

TOWN OFFICER REPORTS:

Administrative Assistant:

The Administrative Assistant brought before the Board the resignation of Ron Abare from the Community Center Board, and was instructed to write a letter of acceptance.

The Board reviewed a resolution from Rutland Town regarding towns' input on public service projects, such as solar farms, and was instructed to place it on the January 25th agenda.

The bench from the Carving Studio previously discussed was reviewed, and the Board agreed to accept the bench already carved.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS:

Selectman Bixby stated he would not be running for re-election in March. The Board expressed its appreciation for his service.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:55 p.m., Selectman Bixby motioned to adjourn, Selectman Wilbur 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 are scheduled for approval on January 25th, 2016.