

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

November 9th, 2015

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Bixby, Clerk
Robert Congdon, Jr
Michael Klopchin, Chair
Arthur Knox (A)
Richard Wilbur (A)

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m. After the Call to Order, there was a moment of silence to remember all military veterans past and present, in honor of Veterans Day.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Selectmen (3), Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Road Commissioner (arrived late), Health Officer, Jim Byrne, Brownson Spencer, Marjorie Southard, Vera Tizabi, Judy Stern, Richard Griffith.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. There were none from Selectmen Congdon and Knox; the Board Chair requested that the Health Officer subject be moved from Old Business to before Highway, as the Health Officer had time constraints.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular – October 26th, 2015: The Board reviewed the minutes, Selectman Bixby noted that he had not been present, but had watched the meeting via PEG TV. Selectman Bixby motioned to accept the minutes subject to corrections and deletions, Selectman Congdon seconded, the motion passed unopposed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

Health Officer (out of order from agenda): The Board Chair informed the public that the current Health Officer, Roxanne Phelps, desired to step down as her work load rendered her unable to adequately serve the Health Officer position. The Board asked the Health Officer for a letter detailing her resignation effective January 1st, 2015, at which time the prospective new Health Officer, Richard Griffith, would become active Health Officer and Ms. Phelps would become his assistant until her appointment expired August 31st, 2015. The Board cautioned that the position was appointed by the State, and the Board could only recommend Mr. Griffith for the position. A brief discussion followed about training available to Mr. Griffith, the expenses for which the Town would absorb, and budgeting for the assistant Health Officer position. The Board thanked Ms. Phelps for her service to the Town.

HIGHWAY:

Garage Roof Repairs – Estimates: The Administrative Assistant informed the Board that four (4) roofing companies had been contacted, but only one had provided an estimate. The Board Chair read aloud the estimate, totaling \$4,850, and asked the Treasurer if the funds were available; the Treasurer responded they were. The Board discussed whether or not to seek more estimates or accept the one. Selectman Congdon approved accepting the one estimate, stating that the repair work needed to be done, and expressed his desire that the Road Commissioner keep the Select Board better informed as to the state of the garage. There was a brief discussion on the electrical system in the garage. Selectman Bixby agreed

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with Selectman Congdon, and seconded accepting the estimate. The motion passed unopposed, and the Administrative Assistant was instructed to contact the company with the Board's decision.

Salt Shed: Selectman Congdon stated that he had contacted Clearspan, and that they could build the shed to the foundation already laid, which was not built to the dimensions originally expected. Brownson Spencer spoke to his reluctance as an engineer to fill out the paperwork on the foundation, citing lack of information from Clearspan. A discussion followed on how binding the Sales Acknowledgement signed by the Board Chair was to the Town, and whether or not a stick built salt shed might serve the Town better. A member of the public inquired as to the reason the foundation's dimensions were faulty, the Board Chair replied that the Town had received several different dimensions from the company; Selectman Congdon stated he thought the Town had only received one. A discussion followed on the possibility of terminating the purchase of the Clearspan shed, and the Sales Acknowledgement was reviewed; it was suggested that the Town's attorney review the document. Time constraints were also discussed. At this point Selectman Knox was contacted by phone, and asked his opinion on the matter. Selectman Knox asked Selectman Congdon and Brownson Spencer their opinions; a discussion followed with Selectman Congdon stating that the State needs drawings for the foundation which Clearspan was not going to provide, and Mr. Spencer advocating for a stick built structure. Selectman Knox stated that if the stick built cost less money and time, and the Sales Acknowledgement was not binding, he would advocate not contracting Clearspan, and would go in whatever direction the Board decided, the phone call then ended, leaving the Board with three members once again. After a brief discussion, the Board Chair motioned to call Clearspan and communicate that the Town was no longer interested; Selectman Bixby seconded, but cautioned he would like the Town's attorney to be contacted first. The motion passed unopposed. The Board Chair then asked the Road Commissioner for estimates on a stick built structure, the Road Commissioner responded that he currently had it priced at \$8,000-\$9,000, and a brief discussion followed on the process of building, and putting bids out for contractors.

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: There was no guest.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (10 minutes): Marjorie Southard stated she felt uncomfortable sitting in the audience with Brownson Spencer, due to the statement made at the June 22nd BZA meeting, and felt insulted that she had been told she could sit at a Town desk, but asked not to go through the materials on the desk by the Board Chair. A brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

E- Waste: Selectman Congdon gave a report on the Town's E-cycling program. The company contracted by the State, Good Point, to collect E-waste, had previously not charged towns for collecting, but currently is changing the contract to collect a fee per pound of E-waste collected. Many towns are not signing the new contract in an effort to force the state to put the contract back out to bid. Selectman Congdon stated that Clarendon could choose to opt out of the contract by giving residents 30 days posted notice that E-

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waste would no longer be collected, or sign the contract and begin paying to have E-waste collected. A discussion followed on the benefits of the Town having E-waste collected, including less electronic liter, and the amount that the Town produces. Selectman Congdon reiterated that as far as he knew the Town could opt out at any time as long as it was posted 30 days before, and Selectman Bixby expressed concern that if Clarendon was the only town in the area collecting E-waste, citizens from other towns might bring their E-waste to Clarendon. After further brief discussion, the Board agreed to stay with the status quo for the time being, and to monitor the amount of E-waste being collected.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grand List Correction: The Board was presented with a grand list correction for Suburban Gas, signed by two listers. Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the correction, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Reappraisal: The Board reviewed a notification from the State requiring the Town to reappraise education grand list properties. A brief discussion followed on the timeline and cause of the reappraisal. Selectman Congdon asked the Treasurer how the reappraisal fund stood, she responded that the funds should be close to what the Town would need.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): There were no public comments on agenda items.

TOWN OFFICER REPORTS:

Administrative Assistant: The Administrative Assistant brought the following before the Board:

1. A certificate of public good application for modification to a cell tower.
2. A notification for a speed change from the State on 7b. The Board Chair asked that it be posted in the Town Hall.
3. A letter from Marion Pratico regarding Farmer Mold.
4. A document from Ron Evans regarding water runoff.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: The Board Chair asked each member for concerns. Selectman Bixby thanked the Administrative Assistant for the donation of the flag and flag pole in front of the Town Hall. Selectman Congdon discussed with the Road Commissioner road signs in town, the High Risk Rural Roads Program, and the possible need for more signs near Mill River Lumber to indicate trucks pulling in and out; also discussed was the Pinkowski dry bridge, and the reflective chevrons that need replacing.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:40 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 are scheduled for approval on November 23, 2015.