

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES SELECTBOARD MEETING – REGULAR JULY 27th, 2015

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

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

CALL TO ORDER: At 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT WHEN MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Select Board Members (3). Administrative Assistant Heather Kent. Town Treasurer, Rebecca Mandolare. Town citizens: Cindy Davis, George Solotruck, Marjorie Southard, Marion Pratico, Anna White Towle, Jason Walker, Karen Ryer, Jake Reed, Peter and Mary Bride, Melissa Strom-Olson

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING SELECTBOARD CHAIR: Selectman Knox motioned to have Robert Congdon take Michael Klopchin's (Board Chair) place for the July 27th, 2015 meeting. Selectman Bixby seconded and the motion carried unopposed.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Acting Board Chair asked if there were any changes to the meeting agenda. Selectman Knox added School House Hill Road to Old Business. Town Bridge 11 was also added to Old Business; the Acting Chair asked for a motion to make the changes to the agenda official; Selectman Knox so motioned, and it was seconded by Selectman Bixby, the agenda changes carried unopposed.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Selectman Bixby motioned to approve the June 22nd, 2015 minutes, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion carried unopposed. The Acting Chair recognized Anna White Towle, who read a statement from Helen Darby, requesting the following corrections in the July 1st minutes: Where the minutes refer to a statement allegedly said to "her" by a Board of Zoning and Adjustments "member", they should say "said to the public" and by the Board of Zoning and Adjustments "Chair". The statement also read that where the minutes say other town boards are often rude to her (Helen Darby), she had meant the Planning Commission only, and that they were disrespectful, not rude, that the town had a vendetta against her family, and expressed concern that public documents are not as available as they should be. The Acting Chair asked if it pleased the Board, the wording of the minutes would be changed from "member" to "chair" and from "said to her" to "said to public." Selectman Knox then asked for a correction in the Executive Session portion of the minutes, from "the Board Chair motioned to go into executive session" to "Selectman Knox motioned", and again in Approval of Select Board Letters, from "a motion was made by Selectman Congdon to approve, and was seconded by the Board Chair", to "seconded by Selectman Bixby". Selectman Knox then motioned that the July 1st, 2015 minutes be approved with corrections, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion carried unopposed.

HIGHWAY: The Road Commissioner was not present and no report was given. The Board Chair recognized Cindy Davis, who advised that vegetation by Walker Mountain Road and Firehouse Road is reducing visibility and needs to be removed. The Acting Board Chair recognized Marion Pratico, who asked if 7b in the village was meant to be ground down before it was paved, and a discussion followed. Selectman Bixby suggested that the signs in the town need to be inspected by the road crew. The Acting Board Chair

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES SELECTBOARD MEETING – REGULAR JULY 27th, 2015

advised that there had been concerns about a ditch that was sprayed with weed killer on Walker Mountain Road, and if there was a policy in place that prohibited such action; the Administrative Assistant was asked to follow up on that matter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (10 minutes): Marjorie Southard advised the board that at the July 22nd 2015 Select Board meeting during executive session she and her sister had looked in the Planning Commission files, but when her sister Helen Darby had returned at a later date, she was told by the Administrative Assistant and the Town Clerk that she may not go through the Planning Commission files without someone accompanying her, as told to them by the Board Chair, Michael Klopchin; Ms. Southard expressed concerns about government transparency. A discussion followed about public record, and town Treasurer Rebecca Mandolare spoke of her system of the public making an appointment to view her records. The Acting Board Chair asked the Administrative Assistant to ask the Planning Commission to put into writing their policy on their records.

Marion Pratico inquired as to if the meeting was being recorded, the Acting Chair informed her that the Town's recording device was not working correctly at the time, but PegTV was recording the meeting as usual.

George Solotruck spoke of the Board of Zoning and Adjustments June 22nd 2015 meeting, and that Deputy Reilly had said he was going to follow up to get statements on what had occurred, but Mr. Solotruck had not heard from him. Marjorie Southard said that she also had not heard back from the deputy. The Acting Board Chair advised that the Board had heard nothing further on the matter, and it was advised that Mr. Solotruck call the Sheriff's Department. Selectman Knox spoke of listening to the private tape of said meeting; Ms. Southard declined per her attorney's advice and a brief discussion followed. George Solotruck expressed his appreciation of the Select Board.

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 present.

GUEST: Peter and Mary Bride were present, and Mrs. Bride read a statement in regards to the proposed solar array abutting their property on Middle Road; the Brides and their neighbors oppose the array, citing decreased property value, unknown health risks, altered property views, and a permanent change in living conditions. Selectman Knox went on record stating that he vehemently opposed the proposed solar array. A discussion followed as to what control the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning and Adjustments have over the proposed site. The Acting Chair advised that because of Act 248, the state can circumvent the town's zoning board. Selectman Bixby motioned that the Select Board send a letter to the Public Service Board stating their opposition to the solar array, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion carried unopposed. Jason Walker and Karen Ryer, both Middle Road residents, commented that solar arrays make a constant humming noise, and questioned possible hearing damage as a result. The subject of disposal of the panels was also brought up; Mrs. Bride commented on the possible effects on local wildlife. It was questioned as to whether the company Suncommon had known of the neighbors' objections before their presentation to the Select Board. The Acting Board Chair reiterated that the Board supported the citizens that opposed the array. Jake Reed, a new resident of Middle Road, was also in attendance for informational purposes.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING – REGULAR

JULY 27th, 2015

OLD BUSINESS:

SCHOOL HOUSE HILL ROAD: Cindy Davis presented an estimate to the Board from Davis Hogs N' Dirt for the lawn repair project. The Acting Board Chair asked for a motion to table the issue until August 10th, in order to have a full board. Selectman Bixby made a motion to table until August 10th, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion carried with no opposition.

BRIDGE 11: The Acting Board Chair advised that the Board had received an email about the time table for the Bridge 11 project, and asked the Administrative Assistant to print out the information, so that it could be discussed at the next Select Board Meeting, August 10th.

NEW BUSINESS:

WEAVER HILL ROAD, IRA: The Acting Chair stated that the Select Board of Ira had contacted him in regards to making an arrangement for grading and plowing; the matter was moved to Old Business for the next Select Board Meeting, when the Road Commissioner and a full board would be present.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL: The liquor license application for Qu's Whistle Stop was reviewed. The Acting Chair asked for a motion to approve the application, Selectman Knox made such a motion, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion carried with no opposition.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PUBLIC NOTICE OF DC TRANSMISSION LINE: The Acting Board Chair advised that the notice had been posted in the town hall for the public, and a brief discussion followed.

UNLEASHED DOG COMPLAINT-ROUTE 7B: The Acting Board Chair read aloud for public record a dog complaint received by the Board from Mr. Charles Gottlieb, pertaining to an unleashed dog on 7b, and advised that the complaint had been forwarded to Deputy Reilly. Selectman Bixby advised that he had had another complaint about this dog, and had referred the person to the Sheriff's Department. The Acting Chair asked the Administrative Assistant to make Selectman Wilbur, not present, aware of the situation as he is the liaison to the Sheriff's Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): Mrs. Bride asked that the letter the Select Board intended to send to the Public Service Board in regards to the proposed Middle Road solar array, be sent to Suncommon and the land owners involved. The Acting Board Chair asked the Administrative Assistant to copy the letter to Suncommon and the land owners.

TOWN OFFICER REPORTS: The Town Treasurer reported that the tax rate will be set at the August 10th Select Board meeting, with a recommended due date of October 9th, 2015.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: The Acting Board Chair asked each Board member if they had any further concerns or comments. He then voiced a concern a citizen had brought to him about the route 133 flea market; the concern pertained to traffic, and whether or not the business had to pay sales tax.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES SELECTBOARD MEETING – REGULAR JULY 27th, 2015

After a brief discussion, the Chair advised that sales tax was a state concern, and he would refer the citizen to the Planning Commission with their concerns.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:05 p.m. Selectman Knox motioned to adjourn. Selectman Bixby seconded his motion and the motion carried without opposition.

SIGNED: Robert Congdon, Jr., Acting Board Chair

SIGNED: Robert Bixby, Clerk

These minutes approved August 24th, 2015.

APPROVED