

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES SELECTBOARD MEETING – SPECIAL JULY 1ST, 2015

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

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

PURPOSE OF MEETING AS WARNED: To review letters of interest and resumes submitted by applicants interested in the job of Highway Employee for the Town of Clarendon and to act on any other matter as may become necessary.

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

PRESENT WHEN MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Select Board Members (5), Administrative Assistant Heather Kent, and Town Treasurer Rebecca Mandolare. Daryl Tripp, Road Commissioner. Deputy Brendan Reilly of the Rutland County Sheriff's Office. Town citizens: George Solotruck, Marjorie Southard, Marion Pratico, and Claire Kalakowski. Also present was Helen Darby.

AGENDA ADDITION/DELETIONS: The Board Chair advised that an agenda had never been done for non-regular Select Board meeting, but as they are required for all meetings, they will be done from this point on. The Board Chair explained the purpose of the meeting: to address a personnel matter, being an opening in the road crew, and introduced the new Administrative Assistant, Heather Kent. The Board Chair asked if there were any objections to moving public comments to before Executive Session, the members had no objections. Helen Darby objected to the public comments being moved; the Board Chair advised that the change was to avoid the public being kept waiting, as it was unknown how long Executive Session would take, and asked what the Board's pleasure was on the matter. The members reiterated having no objections; public comments were moved to before Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD WARRANTS: All new warrants previously signed by the designated Select Board member were approved and signed by all Select Board Members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (15 MINUTES): HELEN Darby stated that the June 22nd minutes for the Board of Zoning and Adjustments were not posted on the town website, the Board Chair noted that he thought he had seen them, but would check with the Town Clerk on the matter. Helen Darby proceeded to give a statement regarding the said June 22nd meeting, and what was allegedly said to the public by the Board of Zoning and Adjustments Chair; when the Chair was asked what direction he was going, he replied "I'm under the direction of going home and getting my 357." Helen then stated that she had called Selectmen Congdon to investigate and to get a copy of the BZA June 22nd recordings. She stated she was then informed on June 30th that there had been a recorder malfunction, so no recording was available. Citizen Marjorie Southard stated that she had a recording of said meeting and requested that it be played for the Board. The Board Chair informed that the Select Board had been advised to listen to official recordings only; the Board members unanimously agreed, with Selectman Congdon stating that

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the court has to deem the recording acceptable before the Board will listen to it, and Selectman Knox citing advise from the Secretary of State and attorneys, and questioned as to why the Board of Zoning and Adjustments chair would have said the alleged comment. Marjorie Southard asked the Administrative Assistant to make sure the Select Board's refusal to listen to the recording was noted in the minutes. Marion Pratico stated that according to Vermont Statues, and document is legal can be read to the Select Board, and asked for the Board's response. The Board Chair stated it was a recording, and that the board would not go outside legal advice, but expressed an appreciation for bringing the recording and the matter to the Board's attention. Marjorie asked that the board produce said legal advice in 5 days, and suggested that the Select Board was hiding the truth. The Board Chair advised that this was not the vase, but the recording in contention was a private tape, and the Board needed a judge to say it is admissible. Selectman Wilbur advised that if the alleged statement by the Board of Zoning and Adjustments Chair was made, it needed to be reported to the Deputy. Helen Darby state that the other town boards are often rude to her, and suggested it was because of her family name, White. Selectman Knox stated that this was not the case. The Board Chair stated that the circumstances of the alleged comments were unknown, and suggested that at the next scheduled Select Board meeting, representatives from the June 22nd meeting in question could attend and explain. Marjorie expressed disappointment, and stated that the Board should want transparency. Marion reiterated her previous comments about the recording of the June 22nd not being available, and stated the Select Board should follow up on it; she state that if this alleged comment had happened on a plain or in a school, the response would have been different. Marjorie Southard asked that at the next Board of Zoning and Adjustment and Planning Commission meeting on July 6th, the deputy should attend, as she didn't feel safe. Deputy Reilly stated he did not have an objection to that. Selectman Knox stated that he felt his integrity had been insulted and if his integrity was in doubt he would step down. Marjorie stated that she felt the whole Board of Zoning and Adjustment should step down. Selectman Wilbur repeated his statement that at the time of the alleged comment, a report should have been made to the police, and questioned as to the reason it was not. The Board Chair advised that the public comments portion of the meeting was over, as it had gone over the fifteen minutes allotted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:40 pm, Selectman Knox motioned to go into Executive Session to review applicants for the Highway position, the motion was seconded by Selectman Congdon, the motion carried unopposed. The Select Board, Road Commissioner, and Administrative Assistant all entered into Executive Session. At 7:35 upon return to the public meeting, Selectman Knox motioned to exit Executive Session, Selectman Congdon seconded and the motion carried unopposed. The Board Chair announced that three candidates had been chosen for interviews, pending for July 22nd, starting at 5 pm. The Board Chair also advised that the full board will not be present for the regularly scheduled July 13th meeting; the administrative assistant was asked to find who was present at the Board of Zoning and Adjustments and Planning Commission meeting on the 22nd, and request they attend the July 27th Select Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD LETTERS: Selectman Bixby motioned for approval of the letter to Mr. and Mrs. Licausi giving permission for placement of a sleeve under Walker Mountain Road and was seconded by Selectman Congdon, the motion carried with no opposition; the letter to Burdette and Rice approving an internment in Spafford Cemetery was read aloud by the Board Chair and a motion was made by Selectman Congdon to approve, and was seconded by Selectman Bixby, the motion carried with no opposition. The Board Chair asked the treasurer, Rebecca Mandolare, as to the purpose of the

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forms in front of the members. Rebecca responded it was for the annual salary for services of the Select Board, to be filled out at their convenience.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: The Board Chair asked the members if there were any concerns; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:40 pm the Board Chair asked for a motion to adjourn, Selectman Knox motioned to adjourn, Selectman Wilbur seconded, and the motion carried with no opposition.

SIGNED: _____ Robert Congdon Jr., Acting Board Chair

SIGNED: _____ Robert Bixby, Clerk

These minutes were approved at the July 27th, 2015 meeting.

APPROVED