

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, July 11th 2016

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Congdon, Jr, Clerk (A)

Michael Klopchin, Chair

Arthur Knox

Daniel Pinkowski

Richard Wilbur

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (4), Administrative Assistant, and Treasurer; also present were Alf Strom-Olsen, Marjorie Southard, and Cindy Davis.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair asked if there were any objections to adding access permits to the agenda under Highway. There were no objections.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular – June 27th, 2016: Selectman Knox stated he was abstaining from discussion as he was not present at the June 27th meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

HIGHWAY: The Road Commissioner was not present at the meeting.

Access Permits (added to agenda): The Board reviewed two access permit applications, one for Charles Bersaw and one for Ron LaVictoire. After confirming the permits had been reviewed by the Road Commissioner, Selectman Wilbur motioned that the Board approve the permits and that the Board Chair sign on behalf of the Board, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

The Board Chair informed the Board and the public of trees down in the Town's right of way on Hier Lane, and that Kyle Taylor had been contacted to remove the trees, at an estimated cost of \$700.

Selectman Knox stated that the Road Crew had been seen driving while on cell phones. The Administrative Assistant was asked to relay the information to the Road Commissioner.

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 brought to the Board's attention a typographical error in the June 27th draft minutes posted online. It was explained that the error had been corrected before the minutes were approved.

The Board Chair invited Alf Strom-Olsen to speak to the issue of voter approval of Zoning changes. Mr. Strom-Olsen spoke to the history of petitions to have voters approve major changes in Zoning, and that it

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was his understanding that the Town had always voted on major Zoning changes. The Board Chair confirmed that the Select Board had always brought major Zoning changes before the voters. After a lengthy discussion, in which rural vs. urban designation and the Zoning language in the Town Plan were discussed, the Board was polled by the Board Chair on whether or not major Zoning changes should be brought before the voters; the Board unanimously agreed that all major Zoning changes should be brought before the voters. Alf Strom-Olsen asked that the record indicate that the last indication of Zoning changes being voted on in the minutes had the Select Board tabling the issue for further discussion, and he believed it was important to get formal clarification on the matter, which is why he had brought it up again.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tax Stabilization – Discussion: The Board reviewed information provided by the VLCT in regards to tax stabilization. Selectman Knox voiced his concern that tax stabilization would be unpopular with the public, and advised that it be done only for a short period of time. Selectmen Pinkowski and Wilbur both spoke to the importance of welcoming businesses for the future of the Town. The Board Chair asked the Administrative Assistant to find more information from the State about tax stabilization. A discussion followed on voter involvement in any potential decisions, REDC, what entices business to the Town, and the lack of infrastructure in the Town to attract business. The industrial park was also discussed, and the Administrative Assistant was instructed to research the industrial park contract in regards to tax stabilization.

Municipal Forest – Possible Logging: Selectman Pinkowski reported to the Board on his and Selectman Congdon's walk through with the Town Tree Warden, Josef Peterson, of the East Street Municipal Forest. After a brief discussion, Selectman Pinkowski motioned that Josef Peterson draft a proposal for the logging of the municipal forest to present to the Select Board, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Zoning Bylaws – Voter Approval Discussion: Discussed previously in agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Auditor Position: The Board reviewed a letter of interest and resume from Kevin Dougherty regarding the Town's open Auditor position. Selectman Wilbur motioned to appoint Mr. Dougherty to the position of auditor, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Occupational Health Partners: The Administrative Assistant informed the Board that she had been approached by this company, whose primary function is to get injured employees back to work as soon as possible, and to reduce workman's comp insurance. The Board instructed the Administrative Assistant to get more information.

Cemeteries Update: Cindy Davis requested an executive session regarding a personnel issue. Selectman Knox motioned to enter into executive session, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed. The Select Board, Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, and Cindy Davis entered into executive

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session at 6:58 pm. Upon return to the public at 7:20 pm, Selectman Knox motioned to leave executive session, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed. A discussion followed on fencing for the Clarendon Flats Cemetery, and estimates for fences the Cemetery Fact Finding Committee had received. It was agreed that estimates from different companies and for different materials would be obtained for the Select Board's July 25th meeting. Selectman Wilbur and Alf Strom-Olsen agreed to look at the current fencing to see if any could be salvaged.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: There was no report given.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported that the auditors would be meeting soon, and that the yearend was looking good. She also asked for a motion to approve the \$150 stipend for the Cemetery Fact Finding Commission. Selectman Wilbur motioned to approve a \$150 annual stipend for the Cemetery Fact Finding Commission, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT: The Administrative Assistant had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): There were no comments

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS:

Selectman Knox expressed his concerns with the potential resettlement of Syrian refugees in the Rutland area, and what repercussions the process might have.

The Board Chair agreed with Selectman Knox's concerns.

Selectman Pinkowski agreed with Selectman Knox's concerns, and stated that he needed to research the issue further.

Selectman Wilbur stated that the U.S.A. is a nation of immigrants, but expressed concerns that the process was not done correctly, and would possibly have a negative impact on the area.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:51 pm, Selectman Knox motioned to adjourn, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

SIGNED: _____ Michael Klopchin, Chair /s

SIGNED: _____ Robert Congdon, Jr., Clerk/s

These minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Heather Kent, Administrative Assistant, and were approved on July 25th, 2016.