

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, September 12th, 2016

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Congdon, Jr, Clerk

Michael Klopchin, Chair

Arthur Knox

Daniel Pinkowski

Richard Wilbur (A)

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (4), Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Road Commissioner. Also present were Shelley Lutz, Cindy Davis, Marjorie Southard, Josef Peterson, Arthur Menard, Robert Bixby, and Kevin Getcha.

Selectman Knox thanked Selectman Congdon and his students for their efforts in restoring the West Clarendon Cemetery; it was decided a letter of thanks would be drafted to the students as well as to the businesses who donated items to the effort. Selectman Knox also stated his appreciation of the Zoning Administrator and the Health Officer.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair added a ticket appeal under highway, Selectman Congdon stated he had a letter from the State that should be reviewed under Bridge 11, and the Administrative Assistant asked that the High Risk Rural Roads Agreement be removed due to lack of information. Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the agenda changes, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular – August 22nd, 2016: Selectman Congdon motioned to accept the minutes subject to corrections or deletions, Selectman Pinkowski seconded. The Board Chair asked that the word runway be changed to taxiway on page four. The minutes were approved with the correction, motion passed unopposed.

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

Shelley Lutz, Quarterline Road: Ms. Lutz wanted her request that Quarterline Road be widened on the record before budget time. There some discussion about the bids the Road Commissioner was obtaining for the project, and the budgeting available. The Board assured Ms. Lutz the project would be completed and thanked Ms. Lutz for coming.

Municipal Roads General Permit – Update: The Administrative Assistant updated the Board on the September seventh meeting with the municipal roads coordinator regarding the general permit.

High Risk Rural Roads Agreement: This item was removed from the agenda.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, September 12th, 2016

Bump Road – Four Wheeler Damage: The Board asked that this issue be referred to the Sheriff's Department.

Ticket Appeal: The Board reviewed an appeal of a five dollar ticket for prohibited parking on Gorge Road, a brief discussion followed. Selectman Congdon motioned to respond in writing that the appeal was denied, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

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: Joe Peterson, Municipal Forest Logging Update: Mr. Peterson updated the Board on the tree marking he had done, and went over numbers and harvesting options. The access point for removing the lumber was discussed; the existing access point on East Street was deemed best, with a secondary back up access point a possibility. The process of harvesting was discussed, as well as Mr. Peterson's concerns, specifically regarding large pine trees. Mr. Peterson agreed that he would help secure loggers, and confirmed that the winter would be best time to harvest. Selectman Congdon motioned to authorize Joe Peterson to pursue loggers, at the per thousand feet price discussed, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed. Mr. Peterson would update the Board as the process progressed.

GUEST: Cindy Davis, Cemetery Fact Finding Committee Updates: Ms. Davis updated the Board on the work done and the work still to be done in the cemeteries. The possible purchase of a small excavator was mentioned, the Board Chair stated that the Board would need to see the cost first. A discussion followed on the stumps that needed to be taken care of in the West Clarendon Cemetery, as well as more thinning to be done. At this point the Administrative Assistant updated the Board on the estimate for tree removal from Kyle Taylor in the West Clarendon Cemetery totaling \$3,450.00. After a brief discussion, Selectman Congdon motioned to take \$1,300 for tree removal on the Austin/Everest plots from the Austin/Everest Fund, and the remaining \$2150 to come from the Clarendon Perpetual Care Fund. The Treasurer advised there was only \$2,089.12 in Clarendon Perpetual Care Fund; Selectman Congdon amended his motion so the remaining \$60.88 was taken out of the Selectman's Expenses, the amended motion was seconded by Selectman Pinkowski and passed unopposed. The South Flats fence was discussed, and the Administrative Assistant advised that she was working with Home Depot on a possible donation of fencing.

The Board briefly discussed with the Road Commissioner the progress he had made with bids for the Quarterline Road widening project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (10 minutes): Cindy Davis asked about the bench from the Carving Studio, she was advised it would be discussed at the next Select Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cold River Berms: After a brief discussion the Board decided that a meeting would be held with ANR to discuss options.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, September 12th, 2016

814 Cold River Road –Discussion: The Board briefly discussed the possibility of leasing out this parcel of land; Selectman Congdon motioned not to pursue a lease agreement regarding the property at 814 Cold River Road, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Tax Stabilization Workshop- Scheduling: A lengthy discussion was had on whether the Board needed to draft and adopt a policy dealing with tax stabilization contracts, or do go by what an 1980 voter approved article stated. Selectman Congdon expressed his concern of the lack of specificity in the original article. Marjorie Southard expressed her opinion on the need for a policy and the age of the original article. The Administrative Assistant was asked to research the last time tax stabilization was used, and if it was ever offered outside of the industrial park. The Board Chair asked the board members if they felt the need for a workshop; Selectman Pinkowski expressed the need for better guidelines, Selectman Knox agreed to a workshop but expressed his dislike of tax stabilization, Selectman Congdon stated that the workshop would have to be after budget. The Board agreed to set up a tax stabilization workshop after budget season.

Bridge 11 Letter of Appreciation: The Board reviewed a letter from the State asking for Select Board approval of the completed Bridge 11. Selectman Congdon motioned to have the Board Chair sign the letter on behalf of the Board, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed. The Board then reviewed the letter they requested drafted expressing appreciation for the workers on Bridge 11. Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the letter, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Clerk Printer Request: The Board reviewed a request from the Town Clerk to purchase a new color printer; Selectman Congdon motioned to authorize the purchase through Vermont Digital, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Walker Mountain Road – Junk Issue: A letter from the Zoning Administrator to the property owners in question was reviewed. It was noted that the issue was brought up to the Health Officer as well. Selectman Knox reiterated his satisfaction with the Zoning Administrator and Health Officer.

Cemetery Mowing Bid and Specifications: The 2017 cemetery mowing bid notice and specifications were reviewed. Selectman Congdon made the recommendation that shrub pruning once a year be added to the specifications, and motioned that the specifications and notice be approved with that change, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Theophilus Harrington Stone and Monument: Selectman Congdon detailed the information on Theophilus Harrington's stone, and gave information about the man, specifically his abolitionist leanings. Selectman Congdon motioned to draft a letter requesting funds from the State to clean the monument and restore the stones pertaining to Theophilus Harrington, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, September 12th, 2016

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: There was no report given as there was no meeting due to the Labor Day Holiday.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There was no report given.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT: There was no report given.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): Robert Bixby commented that his wife might have some information on Theophilus Harrington.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: Selectman Congdon stated that it had been a pleasure to be a part of the restoration of West Clarendon Cemetery, and that community service was putting the values of his school into action. There were no other concerns.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:43 p.m., Selectman Knox motioned to adjourn, Selectman Congdon 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 September 26th, 2016.