

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR AND BUDGET

Monday, November 14th, 2016

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Congdon, Jr, Clerk

Michael Klopchin, Chair

Arthur Knox (A)

Daniel Pinkowski

Richard Wilbur

CALL TO ORDER: 6:02 pm

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (4), Administrative Assistant, Road Commissioner, Treasurer. Also present were Timothy Kennedy of the road crew, Alf Strom-Olsen, Cindy Davis, Robert Bixby, Arthur Menard, Marjorie Southard, and Lyle Jepson and Mary Cohen of REDC.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda, there were none.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular and Budget – October 24th, 2016: Selectman Congdon motioned to accept the minutes with the following corrections: “east and west sides of the Cold River” changed to “east and west sides of Middle Road”, and a typographical error in the tax stabilization discussion, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Select Board Parking Violation Hearing – October 24th, 2016: Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the minutes as written, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

HIGHWAY: The Road Commissioner was present and participated in discussion.

Possible Executive Session, Personnel Review: Selectman Wilbur motioned to enter executive session for a personnel review, to be exited no later than 6:25 pm, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed. At 6:06 pm, the Select Board, Administrative Assistant, Road Commissioner, and Timothy Kennedy entered executive session. At 6:20 pm, upon return to the public, Selectman Wilbur motioned to exit executive session, Selectman Congdon seconded, the motion passed unopposed. The Board Chair advised the public that the employee reviews would be an ongoing process.

Innovation Drive: The Administrative Assistant advised the Board that the president of the Industrial Park Association had made inquiries into the Town taking over Innovation Drive now that it had been brought up to Town standards, and that the Town’s attorney was currently reviewing the process. There was a brief discussion on the paving job that the State had done on Innovation Drive.

Hier Lane – Perennial Stream Erosion: The Road Commissioner updated the Board; the State defined the culvert run off on Steve Bissette’s property as a perennial stream, and Josh Carvajal from ANR would be meeting with the Road Commissioner to develop a plan to armor the banks and prevent erosion. Selectman Congdon advised that the Town should be careful to only do the work within the Town right away, as to not set a precedent of working on private property.

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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: Lyle Jepson and Mary Cohen, Regional Marketing Plan: The Rutland Economic Development Cooperation's marketing strategy to combat the predicted population decline was presented to the Board. A lengthy discussion followed, and questions and comments from the public were taken. Concerns about the proposed name for the marketed region, "Killington Valley", were discussed. Mr. Jepson then detailed to the Board the proposed request for funds for the marketing plan, approximately one dollar per person in town, or roughly \$2500 for Clarendon. The Board Chair stated that the Board would discuss the donation at a budget session, and thanked them for coming.

CEMETERY FACT FINDING COMMITTEE REPORT: What work still needed to be done for the year and what funding was available was discussed. The Board asked Cindy Davis to speak to Old Skool Services about an estimate for the final clean up at West Clarendon/Chippenhook Cemetery.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (10 minutes): Robert Bixby asked about the superfluous poles on Moulton Avenue, the Administrative Assistant reported that Fair Point was in the process of taking them down.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parking Ticket Appeal – Gorge Road: The Board reviewed an appeal of parking violation #05439. After a brief discussion of the reason for the appeal, and the no parking signs on the road, the Board agreed to schedule a hearing for 5:45 p.m., on November 28th, 2016. Selectman Congdon stated his concerns about the Board setting a precedent on dealing with parking ticket appeals. Also discussed was a letter received from Mr. Gary Ayers, referring to his parking ticket repeals, and his desire that another hearing be held, among other demands. The Administrative Assistant read the letter out loud, and informed the Board that all the information on Mr. Ayers had been sent to the VLCT for their opinion. The Board asked to be kept informed.

The Warren Group – Records Request: After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that the request for the CAMA file was a lister issue, and that the Town was not obligated to send any information by law. Selectman Congdon motioned that the Administrative Assistant draft a letter in response to the Warren Group's request, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

John McKenna – Recreation: Mr. McKenna informed the Board that the recreation committee had received an estimate from Green Mountain Power for putting in electricity at the route 7B recreation fields. The recreation committee had room to accommodate the charges in their budget, but wanted to clear it with the Select Board. Selectman Wilbur motioned to allow the Recreation Committee to dispense their funds for power to the recreation fields, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

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Salvage Yard Application – John Blanchard: The Administrative Assistant informed the Board that Mr. Blanchard's application was in order, and the Zoning Administrator had also reviewed it and was recommending that Mr. Blanchard's certificate of approval be approved for another five years. Marjorie Southard expressed concern that the Clarendon Zoning does not permit junk yards. The differences between junk yards and salvage yards were discussed, as well as what Mr. Blanchard is allowed to take in. Selectman Congdon motioned to reapprove the certificate for Northern Metals, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: No report given.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report given.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT: No report given.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): Robert Bixby commented on the passing of Burton Austin, former Road Commissioner. A moment of silence was observed out of respect.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: There were none.

RECESS: Selectman Congdon motioned to recess for 10 minutes before beginning budget discussions, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

BUDGET:

At 8:12 p.m., Selectman Congdon motioned to reopen the meeting from recess, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Highway Salary: The Board discussed a 3% salary increase for the Road Crew, to be kept in a salary pool, and dispensed at the Select Board's discretion for FY18 raises based on personnel reviews. The Board Chair polled the Board; Selectman Wilbur approved the increase, Selectman Pinkowski approved the increase, Selectman Congdon had no comment, and the Board Chair approved the increase. A brief discussion followed on vacation allowance.

Highway Truck Purchase: The Board discussed the possible purchase of new truck to replace the '06 Dump Truck, and the different strategies to fund the purchase, which was estimated at \$150,000. The existing projected truck purchase plan was reviewed, and what trucks were in need of immediate or pending replacement and which could possibly wait. A discussion followed on how much the '06 was costing the Town; Selectman Congdon asked that the bills for all of the trucks be compiled by truck, to better portrait what expenses for each truck were. The Road Commissioner and Administrative Assistant agreed. The Board agreed to budget replacement of the '06 truck, with the cab and chassis being purchased the end of FY18 from the equipment fund, and the body being purchased the beginning of FY19 from the equipment fund. The Board also agreed to leave the amount going into the equipment fund FY18 at \$55,000.

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All other highway budget lines were level funded and left as is.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:02 p.m. Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn, Selectman Wilbur 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 November 28th, 2016.

APPROVED