

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Wednesday, December 28th, 2016

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Congdon, Jr, Clerk

Michael Klopchin, Chair

Arthur Knox (A)

Daniel Pinkowski

Richard Wilbur (A)

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (3), Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Robert Bixby, Marjorie Southard, Road Commissioner, Road Crew Member Joe Parker, and Alf Strom-Olsen.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair asked to place Garvey's Nissan under old business, and Rutland County Solid Waste District charter change under new business. Selectman Congdon asked to also have a discussion about having a new appointment of representative to RCSWD.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular and Budget - December 12th, 2016 and Select Board Emergency Meeting November 29th, 2016: Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the minutes subject to corrections. Motion was withdrawn due to lack of quorum to approve the minutes. Selectman Congdon motioned to table both minutes until January, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

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

Board Chair moved Garvey Nissan to Highway and asked the Road Commissioner his opinion on requests. The Road Commissioner had no issue maintaining but did not believe the Town should have to place the stop signs or the marking lines. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Town would be responsible for the signs, but the road markings would require further information on what was needed, and a meeting with the Road Commissioner and Marble Valley Engineering would be required. The Administrative Assistant was asked to follow up on the issue.

Possible Executive Session, Personnel Review: Selectman Congdon motioned to enter executive session for personnel reasons, not to exceed 15 minutes, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed. At 6:14, the Select Board, Road Commissioner, Road Crew Member Joe Parker, the Administrative Assistant, and Treasurer, entered executive session. Upon return to the public at 6:30 p.m., Selectman Congdon motioned to come out of executive session, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Innovation Drive: The Administrative Assistant updated the Board as to the Town attorney's statutory recommendation on taking over the road. The Select Board asked the Administrative Assistant to follow up with VLCT on possible alternatives to taking over the Road.

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The Board Chair discussed the Walker Mountain Road corner, and maintenance during ice and snow storms.

Selectman Congdon questioned whether the salt shed was being locked, as he had seen a pick-up truck illicitly loading salt after hours, and a brief discussion followed.

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): Robert Bixby asked about the fill that Markowski was taking out and what they were putting back in, the Board Chair responded that some would be coming from Elnicki's pit, and that he would bring the question up.

Alf Strom-Olsen questioned if there was a policy about what amount of sand or salt can be taken from the Town's supply, the Board responded that there was. A brief discussion followed. The Board asked the Administrative Assistant to speak to the Road Commissioner about posting the amount that the policy states by the garage. Private road snow maintenance was also discussed, and the Administrative Assistant was asked to research the history of private road snow maintenance. Selectman Congdon stated his concerns about policing the amount of sand and salt that citizens take from the Town supply, and the problems it might present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Garvey's Nissan: Previously discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Lane - Name: The Administrative Assistant advised the Board that the Town had two Fire Lanes, which would have to be renamed, to adhere to the Town's Street Naming Ordinance and the State's advice. After a discussion, the Board Chair asked that the Administrative Assistant start with Whispering Pines, and gauge the residents' opinions on the renaming.

Proclamation Request: The Board Chair stated that Selectman Wilbur had expressed his desire that the whole Board sign the proclamation, if approved by the Board. Selectman Congdon stated that he was willing to recuse himself as his place of employment is a School Choice school. The Board Chair read the request aloud. Selectman Congdon stated that School Choice has been a boon to the Town, and Mill River has benefited from School Choice. Selectman Pinkowski stated that he was in agreement.

Alf Strom-Olsen asked for clarification about school choice, and stated his concerns about the cost to the Town for sending students to other schools in terms of adding to the general cost for private schools and driving up the per pupil cost. After a lengthy discussion, the Board Chair suggested that he might have

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conflict of interest as he sends his child to an out of district school. Selectman Congdon reiterated that school choice has benefited the town with incoming pupils to the high school. Selectman Congdon motioned to table the issue until January 9th, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion was unopposed. The Board Chair asked the Administrative Assistant to research the issue, and whether other towns had been approached.

RCSWD Charter Change: Selectman Congdon detailed the proposed charter change, and the current way votes are counted from the towns; lack of quorum issues have arisen. The change would be from several points per representative, to one vote per town representative. The Board Chair stated his approval of the change; Selectman Congdon stated that the change might encourage absentee towns to participate, and stated he was in full support of the article change; the change language was read. Selectman Congdon motioned to add the RCSWD charter change article to the Town meeting warning, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed. The advantages to Clarendon were discussed, as well as how the change will be passed.

Selectman Congdon stated that he would like a replacement considered for primary representative to RSSWD due to time restraints. The Board Chair stated that it would be discussed with a full board. Selectman Congdon reminded the public that it does not need to be a selectman.

PLANNING COMMISSION'S REPORT: No report given.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report given

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT: The Administrative Assistant reminded the Board that the warning would soon be due for the Town report. Selectman Congdon asked for a work up of budget numbers and the amount to be raised by taxes as soon as possible. A brief discussion on the budget followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): No comments.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: There were no concerns.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:40 p.m., Selectman Congdon 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 January 23rd, 2017.