

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR

Monday, April 10th, 2017

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Bixby, Clerk

Robert Congdon, Jr.

Michael Klopchin, Chair

Daniel Pinkowski (A)

Richard Wilbur

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (4), Treasurer, Administrative Assistant, Road Commissioner, Dave Potter, Gloria Menard, Alf Strom-Olsen, Zapata Courage, William Burke, Marjorie Southard, Cindy Davis.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair asked that Zapata Courage and William Burke be added as guests, directly after the approval of minutes. Selectman Congdon motioned to adjust the agenda to have the guests go immediately after approval of minutes, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular – March 27th, 2017: Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the minutes as written, Selectmen Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

GUEST: Zapata Courage and William Burke (OUT OF ORDER FROM AGENDA): Ms. Courage updated the public as to the reason that she was brought on to the project, which was to review the potential new recreation fields. She then stated her concerns about wetlands in the area, and advised that the fill disposal area was done through an administrative amendment, not through the entire act 250 process. Ms. Courage gave an overview of the history of the recreation field, and the process. On the site visit they confirmed a perennial stream and a class two wetland, and that it would not fit the profile of a disposal site. The Board Chair detailed that Markowski Excavating had decided not to continue the project, and expressed his confusion on the materials that Ms. Courage had requested from the Town. Ms. Courage, upon the Board Chair's request, detailed the different type of wetlands, and the regulations that each class entailed. The Board Chair questioned the classification of the perennial stream, Ms. Courage referred the Board to the stream alteration officials. How the area was classified as a wetland was discussed at length. Ms. Courage advised what the Town needed to do to be in compliance with wetland rules. The fact that the Board was under the impression that the area for the field had been cleared for wetlands was mentioned, Ms. Courage informed the Board that not all wetlands in Vermont are mapped, therefore mapped wetlands cannot be relied upon for wetland delineation. What had triggered Ms. Courage's review was discussed. Ms. Courage advised that the application permit fee is \$240, and impact buffer is 24 cents a square foot, wetland impact is \$1.50 per square foot, and advised that there was erosion happening, and would require woody vegetation to hold the soil. Options for this vegetation were discussed. Ms. Courage stressed that mapping was the first step, and the Markowski's should be contacted. The Road Commissioner questioned the process, and why this wasn't caught earlier, William Burke commented on the process. The Board Chair expressed his opinion that the field had been beneficial for the Town, and asked that Markowski Excavating be contacted. Selectman Congdon asked if

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Markowski didn't provide the as built drawing, would the Town need to hire someone to do it. Ms. Courage suggested Vtrans, or just have someone familiar with GPS mapping to do the points. Selectman Wilbur asked what would happen if the wetland were to encroach upon the ball fields; Ms. Courage responded that when the Town became compliant, it would be grandfathered in no matter the change in wetland. The Board Chair thanked Ms. Courage and Mr. Burke for attending.

The Administrative Assistant advised that George Ambrose had arrived to the meeting sooner than anticipated. Selectman Congdon motioned to allow Mr. Ambrose to speak next, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

GUEST: George Ambrose, School Update (OUT OF ORDER FROM AGENDA): Mr. Ambrose advised that the school board had been in negotiations with the teacher's union, and had reached an impasse; the Board was presented with the recent press release from the superintendent, the school board's current proposal to the teachers, and example of current teacher pay scale, and a summary of past contract settlements. Mr. Ambrose advised that the school board would stay at the current proposal; mediation would be the next step. Selectman Congdon thanked Mr. Ambrose for his work.

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

Highway Grants: The Administrative Assistant advised the Board on the progress with the Class 2 paving grant. The Road Commissioner detailed to the Board his meeting with the engineer looking at bridge 10, who had recommended a structural engineer. After a brief discussion, Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the Administrative Assistant applying for the paving grant, and the bridge structures grant without further approval, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

The Board Chair asked about the washout on North Shrewsbury Road, the Road Commissioner responded that it had been filled in and he had spoken to Carrara's.

Selectman Bixby passed on a concern about the lack of shoulder and cracking of the pavement on a section of Cold River Road. East Tinmouth Road potholes were also discussed, the Road Commissioner advised that grading of the roads had begun.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (10 minutes): There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

Policy Administrative Review: The Board reviewed and discussed the two versions of the conflict of interest policy. Selectman Congdon motioned to send the short version to the Town Attorney to see if it adequately covers the Town, specifically if the policy opens the Town up to overzealous review, with the policy to be voted on next meeting, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

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Recreation Fields: Previously discussed. Selectman Congdon stated that he was appalled by the situation on an after the fact issue, and believed that the Town was being retaliated for another business that had been permitted against the state's wishes, and that it was the opinion of some of the town's people. The Board Chair concurred, as did Selectman Bixby. Selectman Congdon stated that he felt that the discussion had had a threatening nature, and commented on the fact that Ms. Courage was not elected by the people.

Morton Property: The Administrative Assistant advised the Board that after speaking with the delinquent tax collector about the Morton property notice of intent to sell, she had contacted the Town's attorney as to whether the notice should have a minimum asking price. A brief discussion followed as to whether the interest and penalties should be included, and whether that should go to the Board of Civil Authority. The issue was tabled until the next meeting pending the Town attorney's response.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cemetery Concerns: The Administrative Assistant advised the Board that neighbors were concerned about possibly illicit traffic in the West Clarendon Cemetery, and that she had notified the Sheriff's Department. Cindy Davis stated that Heidi Congdon was interested in being on the Cemetery fact Finding Committee. Selectman Wilbur motioned to appoint Heidi Congdon to the Cemetery Fact Finding Committee, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed. An update was given on the progress of the clearing of the cemetery, and further work that needs to be done.

Liquor License – Loretta's Good Food and Deli, Steve's Country Store: Selectman Congdon motioned to approve both applications and have them be signed by the full Board, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

GUEST: George Ambrose School Report: Previously discussed.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: No report given.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer advised that the Workman's Comp Audit would take place the week of the 16th, and the time for the outside audit was being worked out.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT:

The Administrative Assistant advised that Thomas Smith had resigned from the Community Center Board. The Board granted the Administrative Assistant permission to post the vacancy notice.

Delinquent Tax Collector had informed the Administrative Assistant that all but one of the properties slated for tax sale on the 17th had been resolved, and she expected the remaining one would also be resolved. The Board would be notified when other properties were to be put up for tax sale.

The Administrative Assistant advised that one employee had sought treatment at Occupational Health Partners, and that an authorization to treat employees was required. Selectman Congdon motioned to

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give Town employees the option to go to OHP for treatment, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): There were none.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: Selectman Wilbur mentioned at the last snow storm about snow being plowed across the road, and had spoken to a citizen about the issue.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:00 p.m., Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

SIGNED: _____ Michael Klopchin, Chair/s

SIGNED: _____ Robert Bixby, Clerk/s

These minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Heather Kent, Administrative Assistant, and were approved on April 24th, 2017.