

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING- REGULAR

Monday, January 8th, 2018

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Bixby, Clerk
Robert Congdon, Jr. (A)
Michael Klopchin, Chair
Daniel Pinkowski
Richard Wilbur

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 pm

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board(4), Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, George Ambrose, Marjorie Southard, Alf Strom-Olsen, Cash Ruane, Randy Kinne, John McKenna, Ed Baker, Joel Baker.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. The Administrative Assistant asked that the propane contracts be added under new business, there were no objections.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular - December 20th, 2017: Selectman Bixby motioned to accept the minutes subject to corrections, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

Select Board Meeting-Budget Meetings: Selectman Bixby motioned to accept the minutes subject to correction, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

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

Committee of Operation and Function: Alf Strom-Olsen presented preliminary findings of the committee to the Board. The Board Chair asked that a special meeting be scheduled for a review of the final report, and asked the Administrative Assistant to schedule it. The preliminary findings were reviewed. The Committee agreed that a copy of the final report would be made available before the meeting to discuss it. The responsibility of the Road Commissioner and the Select Board and the value of having an elected road commissioner versus an appointed one was discussed, in that the Road Commissioner had no authority beyond what the Select Board gave him. George Ambrose suggested that if the issue to appoint rather than elect a road commissioner was put forward to the voters that information be disseminated for the propose of education. The Board thanked the Committee for their work.

Part Time Employee – Discussion: The Road Commissioner detailed the difficulty in being a man down in the last snow storm. Whether a part timer was needed, and whether it would be more cost effective versus the overtime put in by the current road crew was debated. A discussion followed on how other towns handled winter plowing. Flex time was discussed and how it should be best applied. Selectman

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Pinkowski suggested using flex time to offset excess overtime. The Board Chair stated that other ways to be efficient without cutting overtime to the Road Crew should be reviewed. The Road Commissioner stated that the Road Crew counted on the standard Monday through Friday workday and that the Select Board should speak to the Road Crew regarding the issue. A discussion of general policy of road maintenance during the winter followed, debating whether salt should be applied before the snow fall is finished, or if only sand should be used until a storm finished. A suggestion was made to delay making a decision about a part time worker until the final report of the Operations and Functions Committee was submitted, the Board agreed.

Selectman Bixby asked the Road Commissioner about a bill concerning a windshield, and asked about a plow hitting a rock and the resulting damage.

Joel Baker asked if Quarterline Road could be widened. The Board Chair stated that in the spring time a conversation would be set up with Tom LaVictoire, the property owner, about the road. Mr. Baker was also concerned about Teer Road being too narrow, it was discussed and would be reviewed in spring.

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 stated in response to a comment previously made by the Rutland County Sheriff that her turkeys had been killed after the Town had voted on a contract with the Sheriff's Department.

George Ambrose updated the Board as to negotiations with the teachers' union, in that only health insurance and salary remained unresolved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parking Ordinance Amendment: In that no petitions had been received, the Board signed the amended parking ordinance for recording with the Town Clerk.

Town Hall Architectural Report: The Board reviewed the report, and the Administrative Assistant suggested that the next step in repairing the Town Hall would be a municipal planning grant. A discussion followed on whether it would be worth restoring the upstairs of the Town Hall. Selectman Wilbur motioned to pursue a municipal planning grant, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed. The Road Commissioner commented that in the process of exploring funding for the Town Hall, the Town Garage could also be looked at.

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NEW BUSINESS:

2018 Warning – Draft: The Board reviewed the draft of the warning, the following changes were made.

Article 10 – Sheriff’s Department: Change the stated forty hours to twenty to better reflect the hours already contracted.

Road Commissioner article: After a discussion on the language, the Board agreed to add an article asking voters to allow the Select Board to appoint a road commissioner. It was agreed that education of the public as to the reason for the article was essential, the Administrative Assistant was asked to reach out to the Board of Auditors about possible information in the town report.

Propane Contracts (ADDED TO AGENDA): The Board Chair signed the previously approved contracts for propane delivery.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No report given.

TREASURER’S REPORT: No report given.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): None.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: Selectman Wilbur thanked the road crew for the work during the recent snow storms. Selectman Pinkowski suggested a truck committee to review a truck purchase and a town garage committee. Selectman Bixby also thanked the Road Crew.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:05 pm Selectman Pinkowski 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 are scheduled for approval on January 22nd 2018.