

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD HEARING – PARKING VIOLATION

Monday, October 24th, 2016

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Congdon, Jr, Clerk
Michael Klopchin, Chair
Arthur Knox
Daniel Pinkowski
Richard Wilbur

CALL TO ORDER: 5:37 p.m.

PURPOSE OF HEARING AS WARNED: To review and hear testimony of the appellant, Mr. Gary Ayers, concerning his appeal of parking violations #00724 and #06392, issued by the Rutland County Sheriff's Department on behalf of the Town of Clarendon.

PRESENT AT HEARING: Select Board (5), Administrative Assistant, Deputy Sheriff of Rutland County.

TESTIMONY OF APPELLANT: The Board Chair suggest that the Board recess for ten minutes, to give the appellant time to appear. Selectman Congdon motioned to recess at 5:37 for ten minutes to give the appellant time to arrive, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion carried unopposed. The Board recessed at 5:37 p.m.; at 5:51 p.m., Selectman Congdon motioned to reconvene the hearing, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed. The Board Chair commented that the appellant, Mr. Gary Ayers, had still not appeared, Selectman Congdon motioned to go into deliberative session, but to stay in the public, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed. The Administrative Assistant reviewed the history of the case, and the Board discussed with the Deputy Sheriff present the possible enforcement of the fines. The Board reviewed the Town of Clarendon's parking ordinance. Selectman Wilbur motioned to send a letter to the appellant, stating that due to his nonappearance at the hearing, the Board was ruling to uphold the violations, and the fines would begin to accrue as stated in the ordinance, and to again send the appellant a copy of the Town's ordinance, so that he may review the possible enforcement that the Town could take, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed. The appeal of violations was denied.

Selectman Congdon commented that the Board should not reschedule another hearing for this issue.

Selectman Knox commented that he would prefer if the Town's attorney was not contacted on the issue again, due to the cost.

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:00 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 on November 14th, 2016.

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SELECTBOARD MEETING-REGULAR AND BUDGET

Monday, October 24th, 2016

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Congdon, Jr, Clerk
Michael Klopchin, Chair
Arthur Knox
Daniel Pinkowski
Richard Wilbur

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (5), Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Road Commissioner, Robert Bixby, Alf Strom-Olsen, Marjorie Southard, Arthur Menard, and Cindy Davis.

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 – October 10th, 2016: Selectman Congdon motioned to approve minutes as written, Selectman Pinkowski seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

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

Personnel Review, Possible Executive Session: The Road Commissioner advised the Board that he would like to schedule individual reviews with each employee, one per meeting. The Board agreed, and the Administrative Assistant was instructed to work with the Road Commissioner to schedule the reviews. The Board asked that the Administrative Assistant be provided with copies of the reviews for the Board, and reminded the public that the reviews were not public.

The Road Commissioner updated the Board on the Quarterline Road widening project, and the progress of the trees being cut in the West Clarendon Cemetery. Also discussed was an update from Selectman Pinkowski and the Road Commissioner on their meeting with Josh Carvajal from D.E.C. and the Bissettes on the issue of the potential perennial stream on their property that is eroding property. The Road Commissioner advised that he believed it to be culvert run off, and Selectman Pinkowski agreed. The Road Commissioner advised that Josh Carvajal and Shannon Pytlik would be meeting to discuss the issue and what needed to be done. The Board asked to be kept informed.

The Board also discussed the salt supply for the winter with the Road Commissioner, and Selectman Knox mentioned a pot hole on Clarendon Springs Lane.

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.

CEMETERY FACT FINDING COMMITTEE: No report given.

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GUEST: There was no guest.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (10 minutes):

OLD BUSINESS:

Municipal Planning Grant 2017: The Board advised the public that this was the previously approved grant that the Planning Commission was pursuing; all members signed.

Tax Stabilization: The Administrative Assistant reviewed the Town's history with tax stabilization, including the two business outside of the industrial park that had executed tax stabilization with the Town. The Board Chair questioned if the article voted upon that gave the Select Board permission to enter into tax stabilization agreements was before the industrial park, Alf Strom-Olson confirmed that it was, having been on the Board when the warning containing the article was signed. Marjorie Southard commented that the issue should be voted on again, the Board Chair responded that if there a public outcry, the Board would take that into consideration. A lengthy discussion followed on the details of how tax stabilization could be offered, who it was to be offered to, and if a policy was needed; Arthur Menard commented that he believed the Board needed a written policy. The Board Chair commented that precedent of the previously written contracts offered a guide. The question was asked how the Town was to stabilize taxes if a new business enters a vacant building; the Administrative Assistant was asked to research the topic. Selectman Congdon recapped the discussion, and stated his concern about the possibility of legal recourse if the Town were to offer tax stabilization to one business and not the other. Alf Strom-Olson commented that the decision to offer tax stabilization was at the sole discretion of the Select Board. Selectman Knox cautioned against retaking a vote, as it would set a precedent of questioning previously taken votes. Robert Bixby stated that the article in the warning was specific on what the Select Board was authorized to do. The Board agreed to hold a workshop at the conclusion of the budget to discuss tax stabilization further.

Municipal Forest Logging Update: The Board reviewed the bid specifications that Joe Peterson was giving to loggers.

Cold River Flood Plain Restoration, Letter of Support: The Board reviewed the letter granting Select Board support to the Cold River Flood Plain Restoration Project. Selectman Congdon stated he would like to see a mention of the berms on both the east and west sides of Middle Road. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed. Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the letter during the following budget session if it was agreeable to the Board, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

Fuel Pre-Buy Contracts: Selectman Congdon reviewed the contracts with Keyser Energy, and read the totals for the pre-buys at each location. The public was advised that the Board had purchased a little more fuel in preparation for a predicted cold winter. Selectman Pinkowski motioned that Selectman Congdon, as the designated contact, sign the negotiated pre-buy contracts with Keyser, Selectman Knox seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Cemetery Mowing Bids: The Administrative Assistant reviewed the bidding process, and the Board reviewed the only bid submitted, from Tim Mumford with Old Skool Services, in the amount of \$5,000. The Board discussed Old Skool Services' qualifications. Selectman Knox motioned to accept the bid from Old Skool Services, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: No report from the Planning Commission was given. The Administrative Assistant reviewed the meeting of the Planning Commission and the Select Board (no quorum of the Select Board was present) regarding the River Corridor Plan, and the possibility of the Town adopting the Plan; a meeting was scheduled between the Planning Commission, the Select Board, Ethan Swift of the Watershed division, Barbara Noyes-Pulling of the regional planning commission, and riverside property owners on November 28th, 2016.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported on tax collection, and noted that the yearly school payment would be on a future warrant for the Select Board Clerk to sign. Selectman Congdon expressed his concern, being the Clerk, of a single signature on such a large warrant. After a brief discussion, Selectman Congdon motioned to have the warrant containing the school payment be checked by both the Board Chair and himself, as Clerk, due to the large amount of money, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): Robert Bixby questioned the prospect of the Town's own promotion of the industrial park, a brief discussion followed. Robert Bixby also questioned by what majority a tax stabilization article would have to pass by, he was informed a two-thirds majority.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: The Board Chair commented on the fact that political signs had been taken from his property, and what that indicated about the state of the nation. Selectman Congdon agreed in the Board Chair's concern for the nation. Selectman Wilbur commented on the signs in his own yard, and why they were there. There were no other concerns.

At this time, Selectman Knox motioned to briefly recess before the budget discussion, Selectman Congdon seconded. At this time PEG TV removed their equipment.

BUDGET FY18

At 7:25 p.m. the Board reconvened.

Revenues: The Board reviewed the recommended budget amounts for the Town revenues. Particular attention was paid to the transfer station and dog licenses and fines lines, as they had been steadily decreasing. Reasons for the transfer station decrease were discussed; the Board also decided to research a dog census, to possibly increase the revenue in that line by finding unregistered dogs. The fund balance was also discussed, and what level of funds the Board would put into the budget for FY18. Alf Strom-

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Olsen suggested first finishing the budget as tightly as possible, then going back to the fund balance. The Board agreed, and left the fund balance undecided for the time being. All other available revenues were approved at the suggested FY18 amount.

At this time, the Board signed the altered Letter of Support for the Cold River Flood Plain Restoration Project.

Health Insurance: The Administrative Assistant reviewed the increases in the premiums for FY18, which resulted in an amount of \$66,000, as well as the possible implications of the Cadillac tax. The Board briefly discussed the plans and premiums of BlueCross BlueShield.

General Insurance: The Administrative Assistant reviewed the changes in Town's liability insurance, and the suggested budgeted amount of \$69,000. A brief discussion on workman's comp, and how it affects the insurance numbers, followed.

The Board briefly discussed highway salaries and performance reviews, and asked that information about the highway budget be sent to them prior to the scheduled highway budget night of November 14th.

The Board agreed that no changes would be made to the recommended insurance budgeted amounts, both in health and general.

ADJOURNMENT:

SIGNED: _____ Michael Klöpchin, Chair /s

SIGNED: _____ Robert Congdon, Jr., Clerk/s

These minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Heather Kent, Administrative Assistant, and were approved on November 14th, 2016.