

# TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

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## MINUTES

### SELECT BOARD MEETING - REGULAR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

#### ATTENDEES:

##### SELECT BOARD

Michael Klopchin, Chair

Robert "Bob" Bixby, Clerk

Robert Congdon, Jr.

Cash Ruane

Richard Wilbur

Board Secretary Janet Arnold

##### COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Art Menard

Gloria Menard

Jane Baker

Becky Madolove

Marjorie Southard

Joyce Pedone

Michael Pedone

##### MEDIA

William Chmielewski, *PEG-TV*

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### 2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Board members noted that the minutes of the September 17, 2018 needed to be reviewed and approved along with those from September 10.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of the September 10, 2018 and September 17, 2018 meetings. Mike K. moved to approve the minutes of September 10, adding his thanks to Art Menard for the excavator. The motion was seconded by Robert C., and it passed.

Mike K. then moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2018. The motion was seconded by Robert C. No revisions were noted, and the motion passed.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF AP AND PAYROLL WARRANTS**

The Chair noted that the AP and Payroll warrants were being circulated for execution by Board members.

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Community members greeted the Board.

#### **6. HIGHWAY**

##### **a. Paving Bids**

Cash reported that the road crew has completed cleaning ditches on Quarterline Road, and are now in the process of installing culverts. Two bids have come in for road tar, and Cash shared the bid amounts, noting that tarring is generally approximately ten percent cheaper in the Spring. As a result, he suggested that it might benefit the Town to wait to order tar before the fiscal year ends on June 30. The Board drilled down into various aspects of the issue, examining supply and demand, prep work required and interplay with the grant (which ends at the close of the fiscal year, i.e. June 30). Board members also noted that the weather for paving will be coming to an end soon. Following additional discussion regarding timing and logistics, Cash recommended that companies be asked to “lock in” their bids, so as to provide certainty in pricing for spring paving. Robert C. supported the Road Commissioner’s recommendation, and moved to ask all other bidders to lock in their bids. The motion was seconded by Bob, and the motion passed.

##### **b. New Truck for Highway Department**

Cash was pleased to report that the new truck arrived today. He will be looking it over first thing in the morning.

#### **7. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **a. Town Hall – Fire Department Offer to Hose Wash Town Hall**

The Board discussed the offer made by the Fire Department to pressure wash the town office building. Board members voiced concern that the pressure of a fire hose could do damage, given the fragility of the clapboard siding and the age of the building generally. Following discussion, the Board elected to decline the offer at this time.

##### **b. Laptop Computer for Road Crew**

Janet reported that she has examined the road crew laptop computer. Base programming is Windows 7, with 2013 versions of Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. In addition, the RSMS11 program contains road section information, and there are two other types of files: .dbf, which is a database software, and .cdx, which is likely “Chemdraw” for chemical structures.

The Board discussed whether the laptop could be put to good use, and several suggestions were made, but no definitive conclusions were reached. Ultimately, the Board concluded that further investigation is called for, and Art Menard might be a good resource to draw on. As a result, the Board elected to investigate the matter further.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **(a) DeMinimis Application, Certificate of Public Good Applicant: NYNEX Mobil Limited Partnership**

Board members noted that no formal Board action is required on that matter, but did want to ensure that the community was fully informed of the NYNEX application because there will be construction occurring in the area.

### **(b) Resignation of Carol Geery, Chair, Clarendon Planning Commission (CPC), Effective October 1, 2018**

Chairman Klopchin informed the Board that Carol Geery has tendered her resignation from the Clarendon Planning Commission effective October 1, 2018. In addition, she will no longer serve as Regional Representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

Rick moved to accept her resignation, with regret, and the motion was seconded by Robert B. The Board thanked her for her many years of service to the Town, and wished her the very best in her future endeavors.

The Board then discussed filling the position. Following broad conceptual discussion regarding the position and who might be qualified to fill it, the Board concluded that it should reach out to Planning Commission members to determine if they have any suggestions for a temporary appointment. Board members also noted that Carol's departure creates a vacancy on the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. The Board discussed logistics of filling the position, suggesting that the position be posted within two weeks, so as to ensure that all Planning Commission positions will be filled as expeditiously as possible. Members of the Planning Commission should also consider who might want to be the Town's representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

## **9. TOWN OFFICER REPORTS**

Treasurer Heidi Congdon reported that the tax bills were mailed out on September 17, and she thanked everyone who worked to get the bills out the door. She also shared that tax payments are already coming in, with over \$80,000 paid already.

Heidi noted that she is waiting for Sullivan Powers to schedule the audit.

George and Art reported on the status of the reappraisal. They are working on the last few streets on the east side of town, and those should be completed in November. The next step will then be to visit properties, for external viewing. They also indicated that a website will be established so that each property owner will be able to see all the data relating to their property and cross-check accuracy.

Finally, Heidi noted that there are property owners for whom the Town does not know when the house was built. These homeowners will need to be contacted who we don't know when the house was built will need to be contacted, since age is a key factor in determining depreciation.

George also provided the Board with an update on Mill River Union High School. The School Board has challenged the Superintendent to work towards making Mill River the best in the

State. A number of evolutionary steps have already been taken, with a reduction in the number of teachers and contracts with the teachers, which was a challenging process.

George praised a number of teachers for being reasonable and leading the way in balancing the interests and needs of students while not overburdening the community.

## **10. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT**

### **(a) Road Crew Laptop**

See Item 7(b) above.

### **(b) VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) Membership Renewal**

Janet informed the Board that the VLCT has sent a renewal membership application, which is due to VLCT by October 12, 2018. VLCT provides a number of services, including assistant with property and casualty issues and worker's compensation. Mike explained the many benefits of VLCT membership to the audience, and stated that membership should continue.

### **(c) Composting Grants to Increase Capacity**

Janet reported that the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is offering a total of \$975,000 for expanded or new Food Scrap Processing Capacity Projects, including, but not limited to, composting facilities, anaerobic digestion facilities and organics transfer stations. The due date is October 31, 2018 if the Town is interested in pursuing such a project. Mike suggested contacting Alf Strom Olsen to see if he might give a presentation on this issue. Rob C. added that, to the best of his knowledge, there is only one digester taking food waste at this time, which prompted now. George queried whether Clarendon could charge other towns to take food waste, which might increase the viability of such a project.

Additional concerns raised included whether other types of waste could be mixed in, since metal, glass and other recyclables do not bio-degrade well, and the facility might need to address waste that is not well sorted by homeowners. The Board discussed the issue at length, with no definitive conclusion was reached on the subject.

## **11. SELECTBOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS**

None were raised.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Business having concluded, Robert C. moved to adjourn the meeting, and with no objection, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.