

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING - REGULAR

MONDAY, February 11, 2019

ATTENDEES:

SELECT BOARD

Michael Klopchin, Chair

Robert "Bob" Bixby, Clerk

Robert Congdon, Jr.

Heidi Congdon, Treasurer

Board Secretary Janet Arnold

Deputy Sheriff Nate Webster

William Chmielewski, PEG-TV

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:04 p.m., Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order, noting that the meeting would be short with only three members of the Board present.

2. REVISIONS TO AGENDA

No revisions to the agenda were noted.

3. MEETING MINUTES

The Board considered the following minutes:

November 19, 2018 (Budget)

December 5, 2018 (Budget)

December 13, 2018 (Budget)

December 18, 2018 (Budget)

January 14, 2019 (Regular)

January 28, 2019 (Regular)

Board members indicated that they had previously reviewed the minutes, and there were no corrections. Bob moved to approve all minutes presented, Robert seconded the motion, and it passed.

4. APPROVAL OF AP AND PAYROLL WARRANTS

Accounts Payable and Payroll warrants were executed by the Board.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Community members greeted the Board.

6. HIGHWAY

a. Kingsley Bridge – Required Repairs

In Cash's absence, Janet explained that the Selectboard had received a letter from the State Agency of Transportation (AOT) regarding the results of a recent inspection of the Kingsley Bridge. That inspection clearly showed that repairs are required, with deteriorated timbers and other issues requiring relatively immediate attention. AOT has recommended that supplemental temporary shoring be installed below the southwest lower corner until more permanent repairs can be made. A meeting had been scheduled at the site to discuss what will need to be done to repair the historic bridge, but that meeting was canceled due to inclement weather, which resulted in a number of necessary individuals from the State being unable to attend. The meeting will be rescheduled.

7. OLD BUSINESS

The Board briefly discussed the issue of marijuana, noting that before it acts, it must get public input from the community. Robert therefore moved to post a 30-day notice tomorrow (Tuesday, February 12, 2019) for a public meeting regarding marijuana at the Selectboard meeting scheduled for March 25. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Initiation of Proceedings for Town to Take Over Maintenance of Sunny Hill Drive

Mike explained that the Town is planning to take over maintenance of Sunny Hill Drive at the request of Sonny Young, who developed the road. Mike briefly explained the legal requirements of the Town taking over maintenance of the road, which starts with a formal hearing and examination of the road.

The Board briefly discussed the fact that all members present are familiar with the area, and it is appropriate for the Town to take over maintenance of the road. Robert therefore moved to initiate the legal process for the Town to take over maintenance of the road, Bob seconded, and the motion passed. The Board scheduled the examination of premises and public hearing for March 25, 2019, commencing at 6:00 p.m. at the Clarendon Town Offices.

b. Marijuana Ordinance – Discussion

Board members discussed developing an ordinance for the Town to ban marijuana dispensaries and other marijuana-related businesses within Town limits. Although they have received feedback from some community members on the topic, the Board agreed that they need to determine how the citizenry in Town, as a whole, wants to approach the issue. Following brief discussion on the topic, Robert moved to authorize Art Peterson, on behalf to the Board, to form an advisory committee to draft ordinance verbiage to ban the sale of marijuana in the Town of Clarendon. Bob Bixby seconded the motion, and it passed.

Janet informed the Board that attorneys from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) have advised that municipalities cannot proactively ban an activity before it becomes legal, and marijuana sales are still illegal under Vermont law. The Board discussed the matter, noting that a comprehensive understanding of the issue is necessary so the Board can be fully informed on the topic before it makes a decision on the issue. The therefore discussed forming a subcommittee to study the issue, with three or four people from Town, as well as securing copies of ordinances from other states/towns.

9. TOWN OFFICER REPORTS

Heidi provided an updated budget status for Board review. She also noted that the Town report booklets will be going out in the mail this week, and the full books will be available in a couple weeks.

10. SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Bob reported that he attended a regional Transportation Committee meeting. The Committee is seeking designation from the Board for a representative and a “back-up”. Representation from Clarendon is important, since there are key issues to be addressed.

Mike reported that he received a call from an individual who lives close to the small trailer park in Town who is concerned with vehicles speeding far too fast up that road. This is a State road, and Deputy Sheriff Webster reported that the Sheriff’s Department does patrol that road, and it is posted at 35 mph.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Business having concluded, Robert moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bob Bixby, and with no objection, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.