

# TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

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## MINUTES

### SELECT BOARD MEETING - REGULAR

MONDAY, February 25, 2019

#### ATTENDEES:

##### SELECT BOARD

Michael Klopchin, Chair  
Robert "Bob" Bixby, Clerk  
Robert Congdon, Jr.  
Cash Ruane  
Rick Wilbur  
Board Secretary Janet Arnold  
William Chmielewski, PEG-TV

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:02 p.m., Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order.

#### 2. REVISIONS TO AGENDA

No additions/revisions to the agenda were specifically noted.

#### 3. MEETING MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes of the February 11, 2019 meeting. Mike called for revisions to the minutes, and none were noted. Bob moved to approve them, Robert seconded, and the motion passed. Cash and Rick elected to abstain since they were not in attendance at that meeting.

#### 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. Road Plowing and Maintenance*

Cash reported that road maintenance and plowing continue. With back-to-back storms, the crew is tired, and he praised them for their dedication and diligence.

##### *b. Kingsley Bridge – Required Repairs*

Cash reported that the State has not contacted him relative to scheduling the bridge inspection. He posited that they are likely waiting for better weather.

#### 7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS

##### *a. Proposed Upgrades at Clarendon Elementary School and potential Community Use*

Fred Valastro, Principal of Clarendon Elementary, shared information about exciting work going on at the Elementary School. He had hoped to report that the school had received the grant it had applied for that would have funded planned improvements, but the school did not get the grant.

He noted that the school does have a walking path around the perimeter of the school, since there are very few sidewalks in the area. The path has been used for a "color run", and he discussed eleven events that have been proposed for the path, including bi-monthly "story walks", a "zen garden" that would be very helpful for students with autism, guidance

counselling and physical education activities. He also proposed re-invigorating the community garden, which would provide fresh vegetables for both students and the community.

The school is now looking to use the field for a softball diamond and a soccer field, as well as benches, picnic tables and a walking path. Mr. Valastro is fully committed to the project, and proposed that the School and the Town partner in the effort. The Board discussed what equipment might be needed to build the facilities, and audience members weighed in as well, with some suggesting that the plans might be a bit redundant in light of other resources in the area.

Mike voiced support for the proposed project, noting that the playground equipment has drawn both children and community members. The Board discussed parking, and audience members brainstormed a number of additional options, including a pool and walking trails. Board members offered their personal resources to help bring the idea to fruition, and brainstormed other potential funding resources and potential supporters. The Board also discussed parking, and ultimately concluded that it would provide opportunities to bring the community together.

***b. Town Mowing – Proposed Contract for Review and Comment***

Janet indicated that a draft contract for Cemetery and Town Hall mowing was provided to the Board for review and comment. The Board reviewed the contract, discussed a number of issues, including the “right of first refusal” language for extra work which was included in the previous contract, and needed flexibility in the event that emergency work arises. Robert indicated that he did not favor providing a “right of first refusal”, and with no objection from other Board members, that language was removed. The Board then provided a number of revisions, which will be incorporated into the contract. The contract will be addressed again at the Board’s next meeting on March 11.

***c. Town Takeover of Sunny Hill Drive Maintenance***

Mike briefly noted that, per the published notice, there will be an official hearing on March 25, 2019 to address the Town taking over maintenance of Sunny Hill Drive. Sonny Young was in attendance, and voiced support for the Town taking over maintenance of the road.

***d. Potential Marijuana Ordinance – Opening Discussion***

The Board again discussed the issue of a Town ordinance regarding marijuana. They shared Town ordinances that they are aware of that have been put in place in other towns. A number of different aspects of the issue were discussed, after which the Board proposed that a Committee be formed to study the issue. The Board discussed strategy on the issue, as well as efforts in other areas of the State to address marijuana sale and consumption. Marjorie Southard indicated that she has reviewed a number of resources, and provided the Board with a copy of a 2011 zoning ordinance that she suggested might be helpful.

Mike noted that, at this time, sale of marijuana is illegal. He also raised a potential concern about whether the Town could prevent a legal activity with an ordinance, should sale of marijuana eventually become legal in Vermont. The Board and audience members engaged in a relatively far-reaching discussion on the issue, touching on a number of different aspects to be considered. Robert suggested that more information is needed before the Board can make a fully informed decision on the issue, and suggested that research should be done relative to what Colorado has done and how that is working from both legal and logistical perspectives.

**9. TOWN OFFICER REPORTS**

Treasurer Heidi Congdon was not in attendance due to illness. She will provide a report at the next meeting.

Officer Webster reported that things in Town have been relatively quiet.

**10. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT**

Janet noted that a Petition by Cingular Wireless d/b/a/ AT&T to modify its wireless telecommunication facility in Clarendon was received today, and copies have been provided to the Board for information and review.

**11. SELECTBOARD COMMENTS**

Bob Bixby gave a hearty “shout out” to the Clarendon road crew for filling potholes and doing an outstanding job on snow removal, and audience members heartily agreed.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Business having concluded, Robert moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bob, and with no objection, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.