

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING - REGULAR

MONDAY, March 11, 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, and welcomed audience members.

2. REVISIONS TO AGENDA

Chairman Klopchin added a discussion regarding the First Constable position under "New Business", and Robert mentioned the need for a clean copy of the proposed contract for cemetery mowing before the Selectboard acts. That will be added to the Agenda for next meeting on March 25.

3. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

The Board discussed the election of Board Officers, commencing with the Board Chair. Bob nominated Mike as Chair, Cash seconded the motion, and it passed. Mike thanked the Board for their vote of confidence in his leadership.

Bob Bixby was then nominated as Clerk, the motion was seconded, and it passed.

4. MEETING MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting and the Sunday, March 3, 2019 Emergency Meeting. Mike called for revisions to the February minutes, and with none noted, Cash moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bob B. seconded the motion, and it passed.

The Board then reviewed the minutes of the March 3 meeting. Bob B. moved to approve them, Cash seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Robert and Rick both abstained from the vote because they were not in attendance at that meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF AP AND PAYROLL WARRANTS

Accounts Payable and Payroll warrants were executed by the Board.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Community members greeted the Board.

7. HIGHWAY

a. Blue Tooth Communication in Town Trucks

Cash reported that he would like to put "blue tooth" in the trucks to facilitate communication, since the company radios do not always provide good reception, which has repeatedly impeded communication by and between crew members. The situation has encouraged cell phone usage, which is both illegal and dangerous.

Heidi indicated that she has reached out to a number of vendors and is awaiting quotes. At this time, Bluetooth would be for only one truck, so the cost would be relatively minimal.

Cash added that he uses his personal cell phone quite a bit in order to effectively communicate with the crews, so blue tooth truly is necessary. As a result, he will be looking into vendors and cost and will report to the Board.

b. Road Crew Compliments

Mike reported that he has received many positive comments on the work the road crew has done during the spate of recent storms. In general, people in Town seem to be satisfied.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. First Constable For The Town Of Clarendon

Duly elected First Constable C. J. Frankiewiez indicated that he had initially, following his election, indicated that he did not want the position, and read his letter to that effect to the audience. He then explained that he has since reconsidered, and is willing to serve as the duly elected First Constable. He therefore read his letter to the Board indicating that he will serve in the position of First Constable. Mike commented that the voters clearly know him as an honorable member of the Town, given the fact that he had not formally run for the position but was elected to it nevertheless. Mike therefore encourage him to take the position.

The Board and Mr. Frankiewiez discussed the duties of a first constable, and asked the Administrative Assistant to contact the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to determine whether the First Constable must become certified or otherwise attend law enforcement courses. The Board and Mr. Frankiewiez then discussed the Board's power to appoint a first constable, and the seven things a First Constable can do, including service of process, destruction of animals, killing of injured deer, providing assistance to the health officer and service of process for criminal matters.

Robert moved to accept Mr. Frankiewiez's letter, and continue in the position, with the understanding that he perform only those duties that can be performed without law enforcement training. The motion was seconded by Cash, and it passed.

b. Appointed Positions Expiring March 2019

The Board reviewed the various appointed positions, and Mike described the process of filling appointed positions. He indicated that Nelson Tift has expressed his desire to keep his position. Marjorie Southard noted that she would like to retain her position on the Community Center Board. Alf Strom-Olsen stated that he does not want to continue as a Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative, but will continue temporarily until a replacement can be found. Bob Bixby stated that he no longer has the time to devote to the solid waste position. As a result, his Solid Waste position will be posted at the Post Office and in the Town Offices.

Following that discussion, Robert moved to reappoint everyone currently holding an appointed office, with the exception of Alf Strom-Olsen. Bob Bixby seconded the motion, noting that he will continue with the appointment to the Community Center. He also indicated that his wife will continue on the Cemetery and Community Center Boards. The motion passed with no opposition.

c. Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)

The Board noted that there is a planning report that is due every year relative to the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP), and asked that it be completed by the next meeting.

10. TOWN OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer Heidi Congdon provided budget status as of today, and she congratulated everyone who was elected. She also thanked Tammy Hoganauer for her service, and Board members echoed that sentiment.

11. SELECTBOARD COMMENTS

Bob Bixby raised the issue of scheduling for the next meeting since it will commence with the hearing regarding the Town taking over road maintenance of the Sunny Hill Drive development. Mike suggested that the Board meet at Sunny Hill Drive at 5:30 p.m., weather permitting. The Board meeting will then commence its customary meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Rob noted that he received comments regarding the length of Town Meeting, and he shared that his philosophy is to ensure that every citizen should have an opportunity to voice their opinions in a respectful manner.

Finally, Board members then discussed the need to clarify highway boundaries for Routes 103 and 133 (length and width) so those can be posted. Rob so moved, Rick seconded the motion, and it passed.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Business having concluded, Rob moved to adjourn the meeting. Cash seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.