

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING - *SPECIAL*

MONDAY, May 20, 2019

ATTENDEES:

SELECT BOARD

Michael Klopchin, Chair
Robert "Bob" Bixby, Clerk
Cash Ruane
Robert Congdon
Rick Wilbur
Board Secretary Janet Arnold

Cindy Davis
Marjorie Southard

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and welcomed audience members, explaining that the sole and exclusive purpose of the meeting is to open and evaluate bids submitted for the three projects put out for bid: cemetery mowing, cemetery tree-trimming/removal, and cemetery fencing. Cash moved to enter into executive session to consider the bids submitted, premature disclosure of which could cause harm to an individual involved in the process. Bob seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The Board entered into executive session at 6:03 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. on motion by Rick and seconded by Bob.

2. AWARD REVIEW OF CEMETERY PROJECT BIDS

The Board reviewed the bid sheets for the three projects put out to bid, noting that bids were due to the Town offices at 4:00 p.m. today:

- 1) Lawn mowing,
- 2) Tree removal, and
- 3) Fencing.

The Board reviewed all bids submitted for the projects mowing of the Town Cemeteries and Town Hall property. Heidi reported that four mowing bids were received, plus one bid for tree removal and another specifically for fencing. She noted that one bid was received after the 4:00 p.m. deadline, and therefore could not be considered.

The Board, having thoroughly reviewed the bids submitted, made the following decisions:

On motion by Cash, seconded by Bob, the Board awarded the mowing contract to Jordan Martell. The motion passed. The Board noted that the bid included itemization, with a "per mowing" fee of \$750.00, plus a cleanup charge of \$355.00. Robert noted that he had recused himself on the issue due to a potential conflict of interest.

Robert moved to award the tree trimming work to G&M Tree Tech, for tree work in all cemeteries, minus any hardwood removal, at a total cost of \$6,550.00. The motion was seconded by Rick, and it passed.

Robert then moved approve Davis Hogs & Dirt for the fence relocation, at a cost of \$360.00. Cash seconded the motion, and it passed. Robert then noted that the approved bid amounts result in approximately two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) remaining, and the Board briefly discussed a number of options for the remaining funds, seeking input from audience members as to those remaining funds should be prioritized. The Board also addressed brush removal, with audience members providing input.

3. TRI-LAND SOLAR PROJECT

The Board received information regarding the proposed solar project behind the Town Hall. Having previously reviewed project specifications, the Board discussed support for the project, after which Robert moved to send a letter to the Vermont Public Service Commission in support of the Tri-Land Solar project. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed. The Board then considered execution of the contract for Tri-Land Solar. Robert moved to allow Mike to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed.

A representative of Tri-Land Solar who was in the audience noted that the final step in the approval process is consideration and approval by the Regional Planning Commission.

4. BRUSH PILE REMOVAL

The Board engaged in an impromptu discussion of brush pile removal, which included removal of brush piles at Spafford and Smith Button cemeteries. This was an issue because ancillary materials, shingles etc. were dumped outside the cemetery. The Board evaluated bids to address that effort, and Heidi noted that the board does have “contingency funds” that can be used if needed. Board discussion ensued, with members generally agreeing that the work be done. Cash moved to approve Martell’s bid. Bob B seconded the motion, and Robert recused himself from the vote. The motion passed with no opposition.

Heidi noted that all winning bidders will be contacted tomorrow morning, and follow-up letters will be sent to bidders who did not get the awards.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Business having concluded, Rick moved to adjourn. Cash seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.