

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING – REGULAR

Monday, June 10, 2019

ATTENDEES:

SELECT BOARD

Michael Klopchin, Chair
Robert Congdon
Robert Bixby
Rick Wilbur
Board Secretary Janet Arnold

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

2. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Janet noted one addition to the Agenda: a report by Lister George Ambrose on the reappraisal effort. Robert therefore moved to add the Listers' Report to the Agenda under "New Business". Bob seconded the motion, and it passed. Mr. Knapp, an audience member, then raised an issue regarding another parcel or property, which was added to the Lister discussion.

Robert moved to add an Executive Session to the end of the meeting. Rick seconded the motion, and it passed.

3. HEARING: TOWN TAKING OVER ROAD MAINTENANCE FOR SUNNY HILL DRIVE AND SHERRI LANE

Consistent with the posted warning of the hearing, the Board opened the hearing on the adoption of Sherry Lane and Sunny Hill Drive as Town roads. Board members noted that they had previously conducted site visits to those roads, and has been consistently and fully informed on the progress made in bringing the roads up to standard for the Town to take over. At this time, both roads are up to standard. Following brief discussion, Robert moved to officially approve the adoption of Sherry Lane and Sunny Hill Drive as town roads.

Bob queried whether there was an accurate map of underground utilities available, and Mike indicated that there is. Following that, the motion passed.

4. APPROVAL OF AP AND PAYROLL WARRANTS

Accounts Payable and Payroll warrants were executed by the Board.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Board reviewed the Minutes of May 29, 2019, and one correction was offered. "LEMP" should have been "LEOP". With that correction, Robert moved to approve the minutes. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed, with Rick abstaining because was not in attendance at the meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

7. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

The Board discussed the contract with the Sheriff's department, noting that the contract will be for up to thirty hours commencing July 1. These hours may flex, so as to provide seven-day coverage. The open issue is the ten hours of dedicated speed enforcement, and what the Town has in mind in that regard. The Board therefore discussed the issue, noting that the coverage schedule could be flexible to accommodate both the needs of the Town and the Sheriff's Department. Mike noted that he can support dedicated hours on different days, which would provide greater flexibility for the Sheriff's department. Members of the Sheriff's department in

attendance indicated that they are open to targeted enforcement in the event it is necessary. Mike also stated that the Board would like to see the assigned Deputy at the Town offices when he or she comes on shift to determine if there are any specific issues that need to be addressed. The Board also noted that the liaison to the Sheriff's Department will be Rick Wilbur.

Robert moved to approve the updated Sheriffs' contract, with Rick Wilbur serving as liaison to the Sheriffs' Department. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed.

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Robert reported on highway matters in Cash's stead. The process to address issues with the Kingsley Covered Bridge is ongoing.

With regard to paving, only eight towns were awarded paving grants for 2020, and Clarendon was not one of them. Hence, the paving budget will be tight.

A bidder for the paving work in the audience asked whether those were going to be awarded tonight. Board members indicated that Cash had put the bid out, but was not in attendance due to illness. Mike therefore indicated that the Board will consider holding a special meeting to address the issue, should it become necessary.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

George Ambrose reported on the reappraisal process, indicating that it is almost complete. There have been forty-four "pre-grievance" meetings and nineteen filed grievances. Some grievance hearings have been held. He explained that if citizens want to go further in the grievance process, the next step is the Board of Civil Authority. He also noted that a number of mobile homes were reassessed. George thanked Heidi Congdon for her invaluable assistance in the process.

He indicated that there were a number of citizens who were adamant about their positions on valuations. As a result, George indicated that there may be grievances, which will be addressed by the Board.

One citizen spoke regarding concerns about the impact on valuation of an adjacent property, which he indicated has gone from a ten acre parcel of "nice land" to a "pit". He provided specific details, including the fact that there are two 18-wheeler beds leaking in close proximity to two water wells. In addition, he noted broken windows, tires, other automotive debris on the property, as well as a dilapidated wooden log building. There have been fires at that property in the past two years, and the property owner acknowledges the "eye sore". He also noted that there is significant traffic at night, which can get disruptive, and the general state of the property is a concern with small children there.

Audience members voiced support for enacting an ordinance to address such situations in Town, and Robert commented that the Health Officer needs to be brought in. As a result, Robert moved that the Board contact the Health Officer to have him make a check of the property. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed. Robert then moved to contact the Zoning Administrator to check on the status of the property and determine whether there are any violations. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

Heidi presented the monthly financials, as well as the results of the audit performed by Sullivan Powers. She provided the letters to management were provided to the Board, and the Annual Financial Management Questionnaire, which assesses financial checks and balances, was provided to the Board for sign-off. This assesses checks and balances and will be included in the minutes.

Robert moved that the Chair execute the Annual Financial Management Questionnaire, Rick seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The executed Financial Management Questionnaire is attached hereto.

12. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Gloria reported that today was the last day of dog registrations. She received twelve registrations today, for a total of 342, and believes that most dogs have now been registered.

13. SELECTBOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

The Board discussed the need for some cemetery stones to be repaired. Bob commented on one that will need to be righted, at an approximate cost of \$350.00, and there is another stone that needs to be repaired, at an approximate cost of \$460.00. The Board discussed repairs of the stones, and queried who might do that work. Robert suggested that additional research is needed to determine who does that work. Quotes will then need to be secured. Mike suggested that the task be passed to the Cemetery Committee.

Robert also noted that the cemeteries are looking good, but noted that some more aggressive cutting for tall weeds and brush could be done, since some stones are starting to be overrun. The Cemetery Committee will look into possibilities.

It was also noted that a stone was vandalized with spray paint. Board members brainstormed ways to remove the paint on such old stone.

Mike then noted that there have been some road issues raised recently, and Joel reported that Cash is addressing those.

Rick indicated that he is looking at updated ordinances for speed, and will be seeking input from the State on speed parameters. In that same vein, Robert addressed the issue of speeding on Teer and Quarterline Roads. He suggested that the posted limits may not be reasonable. Robert proposed ordinances and some targeted enforcement to address speed issues. Bob also noted that motorcycles have been seen speeding on Middle Road and Moulton Avenue, as well as others in Town.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:50 p.m., Robert moved to enter into executive session for confidential personnel issues, premature disclosure of which could cause harm to an individual involved. Bob seconded the motion.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:17 p.m. on motion by Robert, seconded by Rick.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Business having concluded, Rick moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob and Robert simultaneously seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.