

# TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

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## MINUTES

### SELECT BOARD MEETING - REGULAR

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019

#### ATTENDEES:

##### SELECT BOARD

Michael Klopchin, Chair  
Robert "Bob" Bixby, Clerk  
Robert Congdon, Jr.  
Cash Ruane  
Richard Wilbur

##### MEDIA

William Chmielewski, *PEG-TV*

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### 2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Mike noted the following additions to the Agenda:

1. Interest from people in Town in taking the wood that remains following tree cutting at Chippenhook Cemetery. On motion by Cash, seconded by Bob, that item was added to the agenda under "New Business".
2. Robert moved to add an executive session at the end of the meeting to address confidential legal matters. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed. Relative to confidential personnel matters, Robert moved to address them in an additional executive session expressly for that purpose. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed.

Bob reported that Dan Pinkowski had planned to be in attendance to address the Board, but was called out of town, so he will address the Board at the next meeting on July 22.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of the June 24, 2019 Selectboard meeting. Rick moved to approve the minutes subject to correction. Bob seconded the motion. The Board then offered a syntax correction in the discussion of the Art Clark Forest. Cash also offered a correction, indicating that the salt the road crew is restocking is, in fact, the same salt that the State uses. Finally, Bob noted that he and Cash conducted a site visits to the Road Crew on Gorge Road. With those corrections, the motion passed with no objection.

Marjorie reminded the Board that the minutes must be put on website within seven days of the meeting.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF AP AND PAYROLL WARRANTS

The Chair noted that the AP and Payroll warrants were being circulated for execution by Board members.

#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

#### 6. HIGHWAY: ROAD COMMISSIONER REPORT

Cash reported that ongoing projects continue, with a focus on road-side mowing. Mike reported that he has received two calls regarding mowing on East Tinmouth and Schoolhouse Hill Roads due to visibility concerns.

Robert indicated that a resident had asked about dust control, as some roads were quite dusty before the recent rain. Cash reported that he has mounted a tank on an old trailer, so it can be used as a spray trailer. The Board also discussed filling mudholes, and a resident who

expressed frustration, alleging that the larger stone that had been used resulted in the loss of two tires.

Finally, Cash noted that a number of residents have requested that the Sheriff's Department conduct speed enforcement on Walker Mountain Road, as well as in Town. He has spoken with Sheriff Benard regarding using speed control "boxes" on trailers, which have proven effective in reducing speed when used.

Audience member Cindy Davis raised an additional safety issue due to tall grasses and poison parsnip that need to be trimmed on a blind corner.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

Mike reminded the Board that, at the next meeting, they will be setting dates for policy meetings/workshops/ordinances, including personnel, marijuana and other key topics. The first meeting will be held on Monday, July 15, and will continue on "off Mondays" (i.e. Mondays on which there is not a Selectboard meeting scheduled), from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. Mike indicated that it should be posted for next Monday (July 15), with a reminder to all Board members. Robert noted that workshop matters will not be made public until approved in an open session.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

Cindy Davis followed up on the issue of the wood currently in the cemeteries that resulted from the recent tree-cutting effort. She suggested that there be a lottery for the wood, which is something that has been done in other towns. Janet indicated that she had been contacted by an individual who is interested in the wood. Mike added that there could potentially be a "lottery" for the wood, but only residents of the Town would be eligible. Cash added that the Town will need to remove the wood from the cemetery, as the Town has the capacity with the town machinery, and it is critical that nothing in the cemetery be damaged.

Given that time is of the essence, the announcement should be posted on the website, the Town Hall and the Dump on Tuesday, July 9.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None offered.

## **10. HIGHWAY**

Cash discussed moving guard rails around the dry bridge, indicating that reflectors on the east side have been damaged by vehicles. Bob added that there has been a significant amount of heavy truck traffic near the post office. This is problematic, since heavy vehicles are not supported to be in Clarendon village. Cash proposed better signage, and both he and Mike suggested "no overweight vehicles/trucks", similar to the ones currently in place on the covered bridge.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **12. TOWN OFFICER REPORTS**

### ***a. Treasurer's Report***

Heidi reported that she has been busy wrapping up the fiscal year, and should have year-end information to share at the next meeting on July 22.

## **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Robert moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal matters. Bob seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The Board entered Executive session at 6:32 p.m. On motion by Robert, seconded by Rick, the Board exited the first Executive Session at 6:54 p.m.

Immediately thereafter, Robert moved to enter into executive session to discuss confidential legal matters relating to personnel issues, premature disclosure of which could harm to a party or individual involved. The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. The Board exited the second executive session at 7:35 p.m.

## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

Business having concluded, Robert and Cash both moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob seconded the motion, and with no objection, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.