

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING - REGULAR

MONDAY, JULY 22, 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 6:00 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

No revisions were made to the Agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of the July 8, 2019 Selectboard meeting. Bob moved to approve the minutes, Cash seconded the motion, and then offered some corrections, as follows: in the third paragraph, it was a "salt" pile, not a "sand" pile. In the following line, it was Cash and Bob Bixby who conducted site visits on Gorge Road, and finally, in the last sentence of paragraph 6, it should read "due to". Finally, in item 12, the report from the Administrative Assistant can be deleted. With those corrections, the motion passed.

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

Matt Jakubowski informed audience members that Garage Sale Days at the Fire Department will be held from 10 a.m. to approximately 2:00 or 2:30 p.m., and everyone is welcome!

6. HIGHWAY: ROAD COMMISSIONER REPORT

Cash reported that the road crew is currently doing some extensive ditch cleaning on East Tinmouth Road. That is the main project for last week and this week. Robert then asked about the status of roadside mowing. Cash indicated that the mowing has been going well, and Mike commented that he had gotten positive feedback on the road crew's efforts.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Naming of Coburn Court Streets to Comply with e911

Janet reported that she had received a call from Vermont E911 looking for 911 addresses for Coburn Court. She conducted a site visit, and determined that Coburn Court is managed by the Vermont State Housing Authority, and that agency indicated that they are fully 911 compliant. However, the existing street names are confusing, so Vermont E911 indicated that more standard road names would enhance safety.

b. River Corridor Bylaws

The Board considered the issue of adopting River Corridor Bylaws, which are required to be adopted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for municipalities to secure the highest level of funds following disasters. Board members indicated that the Board had evaluated the issue approximately a year ago, and had opted out at that time. They then discussed the current situations, and whether a reevaluation is in order. Board members expressed significant concerns over the limitations that the FEMA rules place on not only municipalities, but citizens as well. The mandatory limitations on set-back boundaries, for example, and could have a detrimental impact on farms.

Following extensive discussion, Board members universally agreed that adoption of the River Corridor Bylaws would be too restrictive.

c. Model Flood Hazard Bylaws

The Board then considered the Model Flood Hazard Bylaws. Mike noted that these came in to play during and following Hurricane Irene. The Board again evaluated the efficacy of the Flood Hazard Bylaws, balanced against the interests of the Town and its citizens, and, after extensive discussion, opted not to adopt them.

d. Sample ATV Ordinances

Mike noted that there have been a number of concerns raised about the use of All Terrain Vehicles (“ATVs”) in Town, and informed the audience that the Town is considering whether an ordinance might be in order to address some of the issues that have been raised.

The Board and audience members discussed the Vermont rules, noting that the Department of Fish & Game handles enforcement. Rick weighed in on his understanding of Vermont law, indicating that ATVs are required to abide by Vermont State statutes, but noted that a Town Ordinance would have greater “teeth” (i.e. effectiveness). The Board therefore tasked the Administrative Assistant with determining what other communities in the State are doing relative to ATVs, as well as the potential liability for ATVs and snowmobiles on Town roads.

Mike noted that the timing of the issue is good, since the Board is working on policies now, so Cash can reach out to the Town Forester to get his input. Bob and Rick commented that the law enforcement perspective should be taken into account in earnest. Rick commented that there has been a move at the State level to have ATV requirements mirror snowmobile requirements. As a result, the Board suggested researching VASA requirements, and also proposed putting up signs in the Town Forest specifically prohibiting ATVs.

e. Updating of Town Policies & Ordinances

Mike noted that the Selectboard has commenced its process of reviewing Town Policies and Ordinances. He encouraged each department in Town to review its policies and provide recommended updates as needed.

Mike stated that the ordinance regarding marijuana dispensaries was, and continues to be, a topic of concern for many people in Town. As a result, the Board has developed a draft ordinance, and is seeking public feedback. Mike therefore called for a motion for adoption of the ordinance, after which the public has the opportunity to comment on it. The Board further discussed adoption of an ordinance, with Robert noting that, should the ordinance be challenged by five percent (5%) of Town voters, the ordinance will then have to be put to a vote to secure approval. Mike then raised questions regarding the draft. Board members delved into linguistic issues, as a result of which Mike suggested that the draft ordinance again be addressed at the second meeting of the month. Robert noted a typo in the draft that was presented, but with the understanding that it would be corrected, Rick moved to adopt the ordinance. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed with no opposition. Bob also noted that a suggestion had been made to address the ordinance on August 26 at 5:00 p.m. prior to the next Selectboard Meeting, which will commence at the earlier hour of 5:30 p.m. Cash seconded the motion, and it passed.

f. Wood Lottery Winners

Cash reported that there are 5-6 total loads of wood in Town cemeteries. He therefore suggested pulling 6 names. Heidi suggested pulling seven names, to guard against someone opting out. The following names were drawn:

1. Blaine Goad
2. Stan Jakobowsky
3. Doug Bradley
4. Sandra Weidell
5. Jessica Diamond
6. Patrick Burke
7. Rich Todd

The names that did not get drawn will go into the lottery for the next time the Town conducts a lottery. Gloria indicated that she will notify the lottery winners tomorrow.

9. TOWN OFFICER REPORTS

a. Treasurer's Report

Heidi provided an overview of the budget status to date. She noted that the budget called for an anticipated deficit of \$14,000.00, but has come in at a deficit of \$9,000.00, but came in at a deficit of 9,000.00. Delinquent Tax Collector Kelly Jakobowski reported that there is a delinquent taxpayer who is working diligently to get paid up.

Matt Jakobowski reported that the Grange Hall now has air conditioning in the building as of last week, complete with timers to facilitate the use of the hall for meetings, as well as energy efficiency. The new equipment is modern and ultra-efficient, which will definitely save the town money, while also making the building more comfortable.

Cash noted that the mowing equipment will be back in service soon, and the crew will again be mowing. Robert suggested that, at the next meeting, the Treasurer and Board determine whether there are sufficient funds to make an offer. This will be a discussion next meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Business having concluded, Robert moved to adjourn the meeting. Rick seconded the motion, and with no objection, the motion passed. Meeting adjourned 6:49 p.m.