

**TOWN OF CLARENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
REGULAR
January 11, 2021
Minutes**

Attendees:

Select Board

Mike Klopchin, Chair
Bob Bixby, Clerk
Robert Congdon
Cash Ruane
Rick Wilbur-absent

Heidi Congdon, Treasurer
Katie Rock, Secretary
George Ambrose, Lister
Bob Underhill, Lister
Skylar Ambrose, Lister
William Chmielewski, PEG-TV

Call to Order

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

Agenda additions/deletions

N/A

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Selectman Bixby motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from December 28 as presented and Selectman Ruane seconded for discussion. Finding no errors, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the FY22 Budget Workshop minutes, subject to any corrections, and Selectman Bixby seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Highway

Road Commissioner Report- Road Commissioner Ruane reported that the Road Crew started cutting back roadside brush and the Town sold the 2009 Ford F-550 with the plow for \$15,000.

Certificate of Highway Mileage 2020- Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the 2020 Certificate of Highway Mileage, with no changes from the previous year. Selectman Bixby seconded the motion and all Board members approved.

Approval of Select Board Warrants

All new warrants and warrants previously signed by the designated Select Board Member were approved and signed by all Select Board Members.

Guests

Sheriff Fox-was present over Zoom to discuss some concerns about Clarendon's contract with them. After the Board heard that the Sheriff's Department responded to an animal control complaint by saying that the Department does not have a contract with Clarendon; the Board asked to speak with Sheriff Fox. Selectman Bixby addressed some concerns he's had with patrol. He would like to see more coverage at the East end of Moulton Ave, near 7B. Sheriff Fox took note and responded that if there are any concerns to let him know sooner

with a phone call. Chairman Klopchin expressed that he had received calls that the Town residents have appreciated seeing patrol near the Chippenhook cemetery. Selectman Ruane also noted his appreciation for seeing deputies patrol in a variety of locations.

Public Comments

N/A

Old Business

N/A

New Business

N/A

Town Officer's Report

Listers; George Ambrose- Town Boundary lines – George Ambrose explained that the Town listers have gone to a new map maker and have spent several days correcting/updating the Town maps. They had not been updated since 2007. They've sent in all map corrections and hopefully a draft will be available in April. Lister Ambrose continued to explain that through their corrections they've noticed an area of concern with the Town boundary lines. The state map and local tax map differ. The boundary with Rutland Town is clean and there's a minor error with Shrewsbury's boundary. There is issue with the Wallingford's boundary line and Ira's. The property in Ira that belongs to Clarendon is mostly woods, but the property in Wallingford's boundary that belongs to Clarendon, is very valuable. The Listers wanted to inform the Select Board of these issues and ask them what steps to take. The State map has not changed since the 1800s (western boundary). The southern boundary was possibly established in 1805. Chairman Klopchin asked approximately how much property value was located in Wallingford, that should be in Clarendon. Lister Underhill approximated around 1.1/1.2 million dollars. Chairman Klopchin also asked the Listers what kind of action could be taken. Lister Ambrose explained that over the years, others Towns that have had similar issues, have gotten together and had a surveyor do some research. The surveyor would establish the boundary line and if the Towns agree to what the surveyor presents, the Legislature goes through with the changes. Selectman Congdon cautioned that the relationship between Wallingford and Clarendon could quickly go sour and the dispute between boundary lines could be very costly. Chairman Klopchin recommended pushing back against the State first, to clarify if they are drawing the boundary lines correctly and if not if they could pick up the financial responsibility of correcting it. The Listers thanked the Board, agreed to working with the State on this issue, and report back with more information at a later date.

Treasurer; Heidi Congdon- Heidi reported that at the last budget workshop, the budget as it stood, was \$45,000 more than the previous year. She wanted to correct that statement because she had not taken in account that \$15,000 was budgeted to go into the General Bridge Reserve Fund as a separate article. Thus, FY22's budget has only been increased by \$30,000. She presented the Board with a comparative budget report, with that change, and she'll be able to make the appropriate changes for Article 2 of the warning.

Chairman Klopchin asked the Board their thoughts about the budget as it stood. Selectman Bixby said he was glad to see that they were able to save \$15,000 which only increases taxes by about a penny or so, therefore he approved of it. Selectman Ruane noted that the Board debated over it quite a bit. He said taking smaller steps towards increase is better than one big step. Selectman Congdon was pleased with the budget as presented. Chairman Klopchin mentioned that they definitely took in account the present circumstances of COVID-19 and

Approved January 25, 2021

the effects it's had on Clarendon's citizens when they created the budget; emphasizing the freezing of Town employees' raises/salaries.

Heidi did receive one last appropriation request from Rutland Restorative Justice Center (RRJC), requesting \$500. They did put it in the mail on December 10, 2020 and it was returned to them the first week of January. They called and were insistent that they tried very hard to get it in by the deadline. It was postmarked by December 31 so Heidi relayed to them that she would ask the Board. Given the extenuating circumstances, that the Post Office has been extremely backed up this year, Selectman Congdon motioned to put RRJC's appropriation request on the ballot, with this request only being accepted because it was postmarked before December 31. Selectman Bixby seconded for discussion. The Board all agreed that this was the one and only exception they would make and it be clearly portrayed that they don't accept these types of cases on a normal basis. The motion passed unopposed.

Secretary; Katie- Katie reported that she received notification from Paul Frank Collins Attorneys that the "63 Acre Solar LLC's" certificate of public good for their project was deemed administratively complete by the Vermont Public Utility Commission on Jan 4. This is the solar project on Alfrecha Road. All their documents can be found online at www.epuc.vermont.gov. Katie also has a hard copy of their documents on file.

Select Board Member Concerns

Selectman Ruane reported that the Transfer Station crew has requested more containers for food waste, as it's often over flowing. The cardboard bin also overflows, especially during the holiday season. The Board discussed whether they should reach out to Casella or RCSW. Chairman Klopchin also asked about getting the light fixed at the Transfer Station. Selectman Congdon explained that Transfer Station attendant, Joe, asked whether or not they should shut down the brush pile for a while because they need to clean up the pit. There has also been issues with the size of the chunks coming in with the brush. The Board briefly discussed how they could control that.

Adjournment

Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:49PM, Selectman Bixby seconded, and all approved.

SIGNED:  Mike Klopchin, Chair

SIGNED:  Bob Bixby, Clerk