

Approved March 8, 2021

TOWN OF CLARENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
REGULAR
February 22, 2021
Minutes

Attendees:

Select Board

Mike Klopchin, Chair
Bob Bixby, Clerk
Robert Congdon
Cash Ruane- absent due to snow plowing
Rick Wilbur

Heidi Congdon, Treasurer
Katie Nop, Secretary
Kelly Jakubowski, Delinquent Tax Collector via Zoom
Gloria Menard, Town Clerk, via Zoom
Art Menard, via Zoom
Dave Morgan, Got2Connect, via Zoom

Call to Order

Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.

Agenda additions/deletions

Selectman Congdon motioned to add the discussion about a Canadian firearm clearance letter under New Business, and Selectman Bixby seconded. All Board members approved.

Chairman Klopchin informed the Board and public that Road Commissioner Cash, was absent due to plowing roads.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from January 25, 2021, subject to any corrections. Selectman Bixby seconded the motion and noted that he found no errors. The motion carried unopposed.

Highway

Road Commissioner Report- N/A

Plowing Route Concerns- N/A (Topic pushed to next Select Board meeting).

Weight Limit Posting update- The Road Commissioner was absent to speak on this subject but Selectman Congdon and Secretary Katie predicted that Cash would not be posting the roads this spring. The vehicles that cause the most damage to the roads are agriculture-related vehicles and unfortunately, are exempt from weight restrictions.

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

N/A

Public Comments

N/A

Old Business

Approve the "Intent to Sell" notice for Morton Property – Kelly Jakubowski was present over Zoom to inform the Board of where she was at with selling the Morton property. She worked with Bill Bloomer to create the "Intent to Sell" notice for the newspaper as well as posting around Town. It has to be posted in 3 different locations, including the newspaper. Bill Bloomer suggested allowing at least a 30-day period to receive bids. Selectman Congdon asked what the delinquent taxes were on the Morton property. Kelly responded that they were around \$16,000. Whoever bought this property would not be issued a clear title for 15 years. Selectman Congdon suggested setting a minimum bid. Selectman Wilbur motioned to set the bid at a minimum of \$5,000 and Selectman Bixby seconded for discussion. The motion passed unopposed. Selectman Congdon further motioned to approve the "Intent to Sell" notice with the amendment made (of the minimum bid), post it in the newspaper and at the other locations. Selectman Wilbur seconded the motion and all approved. Bids will be accepted till March 26, 2021 for the Morton property.

Chippenhook Cemetery plot request update- After the Select Board had received a plot request for the Chippenhook Cemetery, they asked their Secretary to do some research to see if there was any availability. Katie presented the Board with minutes from 2009 that stated they had closed the cemetery. It had been determined that it was at capacity. She followed up with Linda Trombley and George Ambrose for more information. They also agreed that, in the past, the cemetery had been poorly marked and for that reason, it was necessary to discontinue the purchase of plots. The Board agreed to these findings and asked Katie to let the resident know that the Town is unable to sell a plot to her, but if she wished to be buried in Clarendon to contact Cecil White about the East Clarendon Cemetery.

New Business

Phone System bid- Dave Morgan from Got2Connect, was on Zoom to discuss the phone system bid he submitted to Gloria for the Town Office. He explained the benefits that switching to this system would offer: having the options of extensions, transferring calls, and connecting your business phone to your cellphone. He hasn't been able to figure out if the fire alarm panel is compatible, but is still working on it. Selectman Congdon said that he has always been an advocate for upgrading the phone system. He motioned that provided the fire panel is compatible with Got2Connect, to move forward with upgrading the phone system with Dave's company. Selectman Bixby seconded and the motion passed 2-0. Selectman Wilbur abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest.

Firearm Letter- Town Clerk, Gloria, received a letter from a local resident. He requested the Town write a letter on his behalf to the Canadian Chief Firearms Office. He needed a letter that explained he's in good standing with the Town and has no criminal history, in order to hunt in Canada. Selectman Wilbur motioned for the Chairman to sign the letter, and Selectman Bixby seconded. All of the Board members approved.

Town Officer's Report

Treasurer Heidi reported that Town Reports are here and available. She provided the Board with a current status update for this year's budget. As always, Heidi can provide the public with a copy upon request.

Secretary Katie reported that herself, Cash Ruane, and Matt Jakubowski have kicked off Hazard Mitigation planning with the RRPC. That will be ongoing throughout the next few months.

Select Board Member Concerns

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The Board wanted to emphasize to the public that the Town's Informational Meeting will be held via Zoom on March 1 at 7:30PM. Voting will be the following day, with the Town Hall opening at **10AM**.

Selectman Congdon suggested the Board buy Katie a laptop to be able to work remotely if need be. Selectman Wilbur motioned to buy Katie a laptop with the funds being taken from Select Board Expenses, and Contingency funds. Selectman Bixby seconded the motion and it passed unopposed. Katie thanked the Board.

Adjournment

Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn at 6:36PM, Selectman Bixby seconded, and all approved.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL

The Town of Clarendon hereby provides notice of its intention to consider offers to purchase the property listed below:

Daniel Morton and Marilyn Morton Premises
Walker Mountain Road
Clarendon, VT 05756
Parcel No. M82300

Any conveyance from the Town of Clarendon would be by quitclaim deed, as the town does not have title to this real property.

Any offers must be unconditional, in writing and submitted no later than March 26, 2021 to:

Select Board
Town of Clarendon
Re: Morton Property
P. O. Box 30
Clarendon, VT 05759

The Town of Clarendon reserves the right to reject any and all offers received. The Town of Clarendon has set a minimum bid on this property of \$5000.00 If an offer is received that is satisfactory to the Select Board, the Town of Clarendon will prepare, at its expense, a binding Purchase and Sale Agreement which will require a non-refundable deposit in the amount of twenty percent (20%) of the purchase price upon signing.

For more information email Kelly Jakubowski, clarendondeltax@comcast.net

SIGNED: Mike Klopchin Mike Klopchin, Chair

SIGNED: Bob Bixby Bob Bixby, Clerk