

Approved July 27, 2020

**TOWN OF CLARENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
REGULAR**

**Monday July 13, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Select Board

Mike Klopchin, Chair

Bob Bixby, Clerk

Cash Ruane

Robert Congdon

Rick Wilbur

Heidi Congdon, Treasurer

Katie Rock, Secretary

William Chmielewski, Peg-TV

Janine Nilsen

Cindy Davis

Art Chase

Elena Fowler

Roxanne Klafehn

Matt Jakubowski

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order at 6PM.

**2. Agenda additions/deletions**

Selectman Bixby motioned to add an access permit approval under Highway, Selectman Congdon seconded, and all approved. Selectman Congdon motioned to add the consolidated claim discussion under new business, Selectman Bixby seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Selectman Bixby motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from June 22 as is, Selectman Congdon seconded, and all approved.

**4. Fire Alarm System Discussion**

Jay from The Royal Group was available via Zoom to present his bid to the Board. He explained that it covers all requirements set by the Vermont State Fire Marshal. Dave Mckinnon from 4Security was also on the Zoom call to share his bid; it was similar to Royals. The Board asked questions regarding monthly fees, CO2 requirements, and discussed how

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long the bid was good for. Both companies agreed that they were good for the next few weeks. The Select Board promised to give them an answer on which one by their next meeting (7/27). Matt Jakubowski, a state fire marshal, recommended sending the bids to VLCT to see what their opinion was on the coverage. Town Treasurer, Heidi shared the financial aspects of implementing a fire alarm system. She recommended choosing one project a year. Selectman Congdon motioned to have Katie send the fire alarm system bids to Wade from VLCT to get his feedback before the next July meeting; Selectman Ruane seconded, and all approved.

\*Selectman Congdon motioned to skip to the East Street speed limit discussion under New Business, the motion was seconded by Selectman Ruane, and it passed unanimously. \*

## 5. New Business

**East Street speed limit-** Chairman Klopchin read a letter from Janine Nilsen regarding her concerns with the 35mph speed limit on East Street. She named a few examples of accidents that have occurred there. Selectman Congdon motioned to discuss lowering the speed limit from 35mph to 25mph from the intersection of Bump Road to Gorge Road. Selectman Wilbur seconded for discussion. Chairman Klopchin asked Selectman Wilbur his opinion, because of his contract with the Sheriff's Department. Selectman Wilbur agreed with the motion and said it was worth the money to change the speed limit and put up signage for the sake of saving lives. Chairman Klopchin asked the Road Commissioner his opinion. Cash Ruane said he wouldn't stop at Bump Road for 25mph, he thought the whole length of East Street should be 25mph. Andrea Hawkins was available via Zoom and explained her concerns about the 35mph speed limit. She lives at the top of the hill past Kingsley Covered Bridge, and she often experiences "close calls" pulling out of her driveway, and fear for her son who, in order to grab their mail, has to cross the road. Chairman Klopchin asked Selectman Congdon to reconsider his motion and change it to the whole length of East Street being 25mph, Selectman Congdon stood by his first motion. Road Commissioner, Cash Ruane explained that he preferred the whole length of East Street to be 25mph because of the cost savings: the slower cars go, the less dusty, which saves the Town money on road maintenance and materials. Selectman Bixby spoke and said that he thinks people on the south side of East Street would complain if the entire length of East Street was 25mph. After much discussion, the Board voted 3 to 1 to have the speed limit change from 35 to 25 for the length of the intersections of Bump Road to Gorge Road.

## 6. Highway

**Road Commissioner Report-** Road Commissioner, Cash Ruane, reported that they got the grader back today. The Road Crew will start grading just below northern Bump Road. Cindy Davis voiced her complaint about Walker Mountain Road's potholes. Road Commissioner Ruane said they were waiting to hear the status of the paving grant, but because it's not likely the Town will receive a grant they will try to fill them in soon.

**Quarterline Road discussion-**Chairman Klopchin spoke with Tom LaVictory about

black topping the hill on Quarterline Road. He asked the Road Commissioner's opinion. Cash explained that his issue was, the Town has a hard time keeping up with the paved roads in Town already and he is hesitant to pave an additional 2 miles of road. Cash also said that with the new culvert that was installed on Quarterline Road, it has helped tremendously cut down on upkeep. Heidi reported that in the last fiscal year the Town spent \$3800 on Quarterline Road in material maintenance. Selectman Congdon also mentioned that paving the road would increase water runoff and wipe out the ditches more often; another cost to consider. He explained that black topping, though very expensive, may alleviate one issue, it would cause another. Selectman Congdon concluded by saying that he's all for ditching and tree work that has to be done, but the Town has to keep up with their current paved roads at this time

**Pimple Hill Road discussion-** Pimple Hill Road is a one-way road and Cash and

other Board members have received phone calls that people are going the wrong way. Cash suggested putting up a "wrong way" sign. Selectman Congdon motioned that if the change of

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direction on Pimple Hill is not correctly stated in the Traffic ordinance that Katie do that, and to correctly update Windy Lane's speed limit, Selectman Wilbur seconded, and Board members approved.

**Paving Grant update-** Katie read an email update from the State about paving grant funding and essentially there is nothing available for grants this year. However, there is \$80,000 in the Town's resurfacing budget, if the Road Commissioner so chooses to use that money for paving.

**Access Permit-** Road Commissioner Ruane did a site visit for an access permit on School House Road; at this point it does not require a culvert, so Cash as no issue approving the permit. Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the access permit and have the Board Chair sign it, Selectman Wilbur seconded, and all approved.

**Town Hall windows-** Cash Ruane reported there was someone interested in buying the old used Town Hall windows. They offered \$50/a window. Cash asked the Board their opinion. Selectman Congdon thought they were saving them for the Garage, if not they would have to advertise them to have people bid on them. Selectman Bixby said to put them up for bid. Heidi said they could be posted on Craigslist.

## **7. 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.

## **8. Guests**

**Dan Blanchard-Noise Complaint:** Dan was not present to voice his complaint. Selectman Bixby did not want to speak for him, but there are many concerns about the Moulton Ave motorcycle issue. Selectman Congdon said to make the Sheriff aware of it. Selectman Bixby is currently in contact with the Zoning Administrator to make sure this possible motorcycle repair shop has the correct permits. Chairman Klopchin asked Katie to follow up with the ZA about this property issue.

## **9. Public Comments**

N/A

## **10. Old Business**

### **Firework Permitting**

-Approve Firework Permit- Zack Taylor requested a fire work permit for the weekend of 7/17 on East Street. After the Board discussed the location of where the fireworks were going to be shot off, Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the permit, Selectman Ruane seconded, and all approved.

## **11. New Business**

**Consolidated Claim discussion-**Heidi explained that the Town received a class action lawsuit concerning big pharma. If the Town decided that they would like to be involved they may receive a few dollars for filing a claim. Selectman Congdon motioned to not fill out paperwork to be involved, Selectman Wilbur seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **12. Town Officer's Report**

Heidi is wrapping up the last fiscal year, and will be making reports for the Town report.

## **13. Select Board Member Concerns**

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Selectman Bixby was concerned about a dip in the bridge on Creek Road, Selectman Ruane assured him it has been there awhile and its construction is stable

#### **14. Adjournment**

Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn at 7:29pm, Selectman Ruane seconded, and all approved.

SIGNED: Mike Klopchin Mike Klopchin, Chair

SIGNED: Bob Bixby Bob Bixby, Clerk