

**TOWN OF CLARENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**REGULAR**  
**January 10, 2022**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees**

Select Board:

Mike Klopchin, Chair

Bob Bixby, Clerk

Robert Congdon

Cash Ruane

Rick Wilbur

Heidi Congdon, Treasurer

Katie Nop, Secretary

William Chmielewski, PEG-TV

**Call to Order**

Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**Agenda additions/deletions**

N/A

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from December 27, 2021; Selectman Bixby seconded and the motion passed unopposed.

**Highway**

Road Commissioner Report- The Road Crew has been on the roads quite frequently dressing them for ice and snow. The Road Commissioner is concerned what the tar roads will look like in the spring with the freezing and thawing.

Selectman Wilbur had a concern about a town resident that was loading public sand into his truck sander. Heidi had witnessed it as well, but noted it wasn't a commercial sander. Selectman Congdon said that as long as it wasn't a commercial sander, its not too big of a deal right now. Some residents in Town have very long driveways where a hopper may be needed. The Town will just have to monitor the supply more closely and if it becomes a larger problem, then they will revisit the issue.

**Approval of Select Board Warrants**

**Guests**

N/A

**Public Comments**

N/A

**Old Business**

**MRU Withdrawal discussion-** Chairman Klopchin gave an overview of the situation. The Board had debated whether or not to put a nonbinding article on the ballot in March. It would ask the townspeople if they would like Clarendon to consider withdrawing from the school district. Chairman Klopchin also explained that when they attended a school board meeting in July, they discussed 3 things: better communication between the school and the town, how

the merger was supposed to decrease their taxes, and perhaps placing a nonbinding article on the ballot. The process of withdrawing from a district is difficult; all the district towns have to agree for Clarendon to leave. The State then has to agree that the other schools' district taxes are sufficient to cover the school budget, and then allow the Town to leave (in a nutshell). Chairman Klopchin said that with the current changes happening in the school board and the better lines of communication, the Select Board should not consider putting the withdrawal discussion on the ballot. Selectman Wilbur said that the voters should bring the issue before the Town if they would like to see change, but in the end the State does get the final decision.

(It started snowing during this meeting, so Road Commissioner Ruane had to leave the meeting early).

Selectman Congdon motioned to suspend the discussion about Clarendon's possible withdrawal and move to the approval of the 2022 Election Warning before Cash Ruane had to leave. Selectman Bixby seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **New Business**

**Approve 2022 Election Warning** - Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the 2022 Election Warning. Article 2 states: "Shall the Town of Clarendon raise by taxation the sum of **\$1,107, 298.45** to provide funds for General Government and Highway Expenditures for fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, excluding separately voted articles?" Selectman Congdon reiterated that this figure does not increase taxes. There is a decrease in the fund balance, but that needed to happen anyways. Selectman Bixby seconded the motion, and it passed unopposed. Selectman Ruane stated that this is only the municipal portion of the budget, and they have no control over the education budget.

The Board then circled back to **Old Business** to discuss **MRU Withdrawal**.

Selectman Congdon motioned that there be no more pursuit of this discussion at this time. However, that's not to say that if the citizens would like something different, they can bring it before the Select Board. The Board felt like they've accomplished their goals in producing change in this area. Selectman Bixby seconded Selectman Congdon's motion. Chairman Klopchin said for the record, the motion passed unanimously (Cash Ruane was absent for the vote though).

#### **New Business**

**VT Ecycle Contract Renewal**- Selectman Congdon motioned that the Chairman sign the contract on behalf of the Board, Selectman Bixby seconded for discussion. He asked if the contract was still with NCER, and Katie confirmed. All of the Board members approved the motion.

**DMV Record Request authorization**- Selectman Congdon motioned that the Chairman sign the authorization of record requests and Selectman Bixby seconded. The motion passed 3-0. Selectman Congdon explained that it's a letter to the DMV to allow Katie to access the Road Crew's operating records per FMSCA regulations.

**Cemetery Committee purchase approval**- Katie presented this purchase request on behalf of Kevin Peck, for the Cemetery Committee. He would like to buy a heavy-duty rope for tree removal and headstone repair. Kevin had talked with the Road Commissioner to see if the Town already had something similar so he wouldn't have to buy it, but there wasn't. The rope would cost \$173.95. Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the purchase; Selectman Wilbur seconded, all approved.

#### **Town Officer's Report**

Treasurer, Heidi, reported that the budget process is wrapped up. The internal auditors are scheduled to meet on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month to review the Town's financial statements. Heidi will be processing W-2s, 1099s, and wrapping up calendar year end.

Katie, Board Secretary, reported that she had someone call in a complaint about a dog on Knipes Drive that has been running at large and damaging people's property. She was letting the Board know so that it was on the record, in case the issue escalates, and possibly requires a hearing.

#### **Select Board Member Concerns**

Selectman Bixby thanked Heidi for her fine work during budget season.

Selectman Congdon brought up a complaint he had received regarding the confusion that Route 7b North causes for residents in the village. Specifically, a town resident was not able to receive necessary medical supplies because of delivery issues. Selectman Congdon brought this up because he had been notified so he was doing his due diligence. The Board asked Katie to look into this situation as it pertains to E911. Selectman Congdon said to ask the E911 Board if there were issues with the naming of the road, from their perspective and what their solution would be. Selectman Congdon asked Selectman Bixby if he's heard of any concern in the village with the road name. Selectman Bixby said he had not heard issues with RT 7b North, mostly just truck drivers looking for the cabinet company.

#### **Adjournment**

Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn at 6:30PM, Selectman Bixby seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

SIGNED:  Mike Klopchin, Chair

SIGNED:  Bob Bixby, Clerk