

Approved December 12, 2022

TOWN OF CLARENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
REGULAR
November 28, 2022
Minutes

Attendees:

Select Board

Mike Klopchin, Chair
Bob Bixby, Clerk
Robert Congdon
Cash Ruane
Art Menard

Heidi Congdon, Treasurer
Katie Nop, Secretary
Gloria Menard, Clerk
Richard Griffith, Health Officer
Kevin Peck, Cemetery Committee member
Joel Baker, Highway Dept. member
Aaron Hileker

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 accept the Regular Meeting minutes from November 14, 2022 as presented, and Selectman Ruane seconded. The motion passed 3-0. Selectmen Congdon and Menard abstained from the vote because they were not present at the last meeting.

Selectman Ruane motioned to accept the Special Meeting minutes from November 14, 2022 as presented, and Selectman Bixby seconded. The motion passed 3-0. Selectman Congdon and Menard abstained because they were not present at the last meeting.

Highway

Road Commissioner Report-

Road Commissioner Ruane reported that the paving on Creek Road will come to about \$53,000 after grant reimbursement. The shoulders on Creek Road came to \$6,800 since the town had a credit with Fullers (total came out to less than what was originally quoted).

Grader Quotes-

Cash had two grader quotes- one from John Deere and one from CAT. He contacted Case multiple times and didn't hear back. The CAT grader came to \$324,400 as a base price. With the add-ons Cash would like it would come to \$344,600. John Deere came in at \$344,000. CAT would take the town's grader in trade for a value of \$22,500. Selectman Congdon asked if there's any benefit between having a joystick operated grader versus a steering wheel grader. Cash said the steering wheel option is cheaper. However, Cash felt like the joystick option was better for resale value down the road. The grader that will be purchased should last a long time and Cash thought the younger generation will be more comfortable operating joysticks. Selectman Congdon felt like joysticks were new to graders and asked how the electronics were long term. Selectman Bixby added that he was there when the salesman

Approved December 12, 2022

came down, he recalled that he said that the joystick technology in graders has been out for about 10 years. The salesman said 75-80% of municipalities he's selling to, purchase the ones with joysticks. Selectman Menard asked Cash which one he's leaning towards. Cash said he's leaning towards the CAT 140 grader. There's about a year of lead time before the town would be able to get the grader, if approved tonight.

Selectman Congdon asked about the equipment purchase timeline; what is due for replacement. Joel and Cash agreed the '16 Mack would be up next (after the grader). Selectman Congdon asked what was in the equipment fund. Treasurer, Heidi, reported there's \$156,154.23 in the equipment fund and about \$400k left in the ARPA fund. Heidi reminded the Board about the external auditors' suggestion of moving the ARPA money into the general fund and then have the voters approve a buildings fund. There was much discussion about the equipment fund and a possible buildings fund.

Selectman Congdon questioned whether Cash would sell the grader out right and get more for it. Cash said if someone offered more than \$22,500 then he would consider selling it. The CAT salesman was fine with that. Heidi reported that the town had put \$35,000 into the grader in the last 2 years, so she hoped that the town would get more for the grader than the proposed \$22,500.

Selectman Congdon motioned to authorize the Road Commissioner to enter into an agreement with Milton CAT to purchase the CAT 140 grader utilizing \$150,000 from the equipment fund, and requested \$200,000 from the ARPA fund to be transferred into the equipment fund to cover the remaining balance of the purchase, and for the agreement to exclude any trade. Selectman Menard seconded for discussion. Selectman Congdon would like to see the town get more for the grader, than what was proposed in CAT's quote. The motion passed unopposed.

Selectman Congdon motioned to transfer any remaining ARPA funds to the general fund to offset expenses with the intent that there be a ballot article in March asking the voters to establish a Clarendon Buildings Fund that those funds will then be moved into. Selectman Bixby seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FY22 Grants in Aid/FY23 Better Roads Reimbursement sign off-

Katie explained that there were two grants utilized on the Teer Road project. There was Better Roads (\$19,800) and Grants-In-Aid (\$12,100). The total for Better Roads came to \$73,350.36 with a town match of \$53,550.75. Grants in Aid came to \$27,461.45 with a town match of \$15,361.45. There was a lot of discussion on why and how the Better Roads grant was so high. Road Commissioner Ruane figured the difference between someone who sits behind a desk and fills out the grant v. someone who executes the project. Selectman Congdon pushed back and said the RRPC professionals fill out grant applications all the time and have a handle on them. The Better Roads grant was category B, where the max offered is \$20,000. The Board questioned whether they should be in a different category with how large scale the project was. The Board did consider taking the labor total out of the equation because they would be paying the road crew anyways to be doing projects throughout the summer. After more debate, Selectman Congdon motioned for the Chairman to sign off on the reimbursement forms for Better Roads and Grants in Aid to get what money back the town could. Selectman Menard seconded and all approved.

Heidi added that there is a new individual at RRPC that will be assisting in the next Better Roads grant and that Cash could relay this feedback to him.

Approval of Select Board Warrants

Approved December 12, 2022

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

Regional Emergency Management Committee appointment-

Selectman Congdon motioned to appoint Craig Knapp who had expressed interest and for the Chairman to sign off on the paperwork, and Selectman Bixby seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

FY24 Cemetery Mowing bids-

The Board received two mowing bids for FY24. One was from Intrinsic and the other from Johnson's Lawncare. The total for Intrinsic's bid came to \$10,626 and Johnson's came to \$6,700. The hourly rate for both were \$50/hour. Johnson's Lawncare had the contract for FY22 and Intrinsic holds the current contract. The Board looked to Kevin, Cemetery Committee member, for his input. Kevin recalled that Johnson had a very small crew and when it came to spring clean-up, they had difficulty getting it done in a timely manner. Kevin liked seeing the owner of the company on the zero turn. Intrinsic has a large crew and is able to accomplish much. They did damage a stone but responded well to fixing it. Selectman Congdon motioned that they go back to Johnson's Lawncare for FY24 cemetery mowing and Selectman Bixby seconded. All Board members approved of the motion.

Moulton Ave Trash issues-

Selectman Bixby said he'd start the conversation. They've had trash issues for years on Moulton Ave and it's getting increasingly worse. The neighbors are concerned about their water quality, specifically since they're so close to the elementary school. Aaron Hileker was present and explained that he's had rats and mice near his property due to the trash. The current residence of concern is owned by Ardis Martin. Mr. Hileker described the place looking like Hubbard's [a dump].

The other residence that's had a trash issue is owned by Scott Duncan. That property is getting cleaned up, but there were about 30 tires that needed to be disposed of- which indicates a business-which indicates a zoning issue.

Richard Griffith, Town Health Officer, said that in towns without a rental code, such as Clarendon, they fall under the State's. It does require the landlord to provide receptacles. Ardis Martin's property is also a rental. Richard will get contact info for Ardis and speak with them about the code. Selectman Menard questioned if the owner was even aware of the trash issue. She may not be local and could be unaware. The first step would be to make contact and let her know of the issue.

Selectman Congdon added that if anything comes into Moulton Ave business wise, to notify the new ZA about it.

Selectman Bixby said there is also concern for the dog that resides at Ardis Martin's place. It appears malnourished. Selectman Ruane had received 2 calls about the dog earlier in the day. Neighbors report that it looks like it's rummaging through trash to find food. The Board

Approved December 12, 2022

asked Katie to contact the Sheriff's dept. ASAP about the dog. They assumed it's not licensed either.

Town Officer's Report

Treasurer, Heidi, reported that the town is currently working on its budget and the new budget workshop will be on December 12 at 5PM.

There is a Select Board meeting scheduled for December 26 which is the day after Christmas. Chairman Klopchin would like the Board to consider Wednesday the 28th for a budget meeting at 5PM and then Regular meeting at 6PM. Katie suggested deciding at the December 12 meeting when the next meeting should be, depending on where the Board is at with budget. Selectman Congdon motioned to cancel the December 26th budget workshop and Regular Meeting; Selectman Bixby seconded, and all approved. The Board will figure out a possible meeting date at their December 12 meeting, if needed.

Town Clerk, Gloria, said she will not be at the office the next day. She will be attending the recount between Art Peterson and Dave Potter that's taking place at the Court House.

Cemetery Committee member, Kevin Peck, told the Board that the Cemetery Committee would be meeting with the ladies who had reservations about the Cemetery rules. They will be getting together before the next meeting and adjusting it. Kevin wanted some guidance from the Board as to what they were willing to change or adjust. Selectman Congdon said he felt that the rules regarding shrubs, trees, and artificial flowers should not change. There is some leeway with the perennials (i.e. bulbs), if maintained. He'd like to see the line held on glass and metal.

Select Board Member Concerns

N/A

Adjournment

Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn at 7:16PM, Selectman Bixby seconded, and all Board members approved.

SIGNED:  Mike Klopchin, Chair

SIGNED:  Bob Bixby, Clerk