

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

**Monday, February 12th, 2024
Clarendon Town Hall @ 6:00PM**

MINUTES

Attendees:

Selectboard

Mike Klopchin, Chair
George Ambrose, Clerk
Robert Congdon
Cash Ruane
Art Menard

Heidi Congdon, Treasurer
Ashley Robinson, Secretary
Gloria Menard, Clerk
Kevin Peck, Lister
William Chmielewski, PEG-TV
Shelly Lutz
Jimmy Austin
Jan McCoy
Bob Bixby
Jeannie Stempfel
Teresa Miele

Call to Order

Chairman Klopchin called meeting to order at 6:00PM

Agenda additions/deletions

N/A

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting: January 22, 2024

Special Meeting: February 1, 2024

Selectman Congdon motioned to approve both regular meeting and special meeting minutes simultaneously. Selectman Ambrose provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Highway

Road Commissioner's Report:

Selectman/Road Commissioner Ruane reports on dealing with mud problems, 5th time this winter. Weather being changing makes it difficult. Our roads in town look good compared to some other towns in the area. They will continue to fill in soft spots as needed.

Quarterline Road update:

Selectman/Road Commissioner Ruane speaks to the Quarterline Road update. Selectman Ruane, other selectboard members, as well as some residents went to meeting at Rutland Town. Rutland Town will be maintaining the road from here on out. At the meeting Mr. Sears, the road commissioner of Rutland Town, made comments about training 2 workers on a grader to help maintain that road.

Selectman Ambrose commented from attending the meeting, that it seems what Selectboard Ruane is reporting was the gist of it, and hopeful that Rutland Town will follow through on their end of the meeting.

Resident Jeannie Stempfel speaks of the Clarendon side of roads are great to the town line, and the Rutland Town side tends to be a marsh and is hopeful that Rutland Town will learn to maintain the road. She would like to be able to communicate with Rutland town in a manner that is respectful for both residents of Clarendon and Rutland Town. She is hoping the towns can work collaboratively down the road when needed.

Selectman Ruane reinforced that Rutland Town will be working on the road and it is now theirs to maintain. Rutland Town has spoken with a grater rental. Chairman Klopchin said they are being proactive with moving forward.

Part-Time Road Crew Position:

Selectman Ruane spoke of an applicant the town had hoped to interview, however, the applicant chose to remove himself from the applicant list.

Selectman Congdon suggested we look through the applicants again. Selectman Ruane will see if there was anyone qualified for the job and move forward. Selectman Congdon confirms that the posting is still listed for people to apply.

Highway Dept. Radios:

Selectman Ruane speaks on radios. Salesman Steve came from the 2-way radio company, road crew team was impressed with the trial period. Three radios were used and very clear like you are talking within a room. Bounces off of towers for use and are in a decent area to be able to use the towers. No problem going up Walker Mountain Road. There is a buyout option at 1200 each, then you pay for service and have to put in a repeater. Selectman Ruane suggests we rent the units, as they would be fully covered if something happens to them or need updating. They will need to be 8 radios. One would be able to be used for rotating from mower, excavator or grater. Metal plate's will be installed in each piece of equipment with antenna. Shelly Lutz questioned the difference between purchasing and renting. Selectman Ruane refers to the warranty between the two. Selectman Ambrose suggests rental agreement. Selectman Menard questioned budgeting for the radios as they were not involved in the years budgeting numbers. Treasurer Congdon shows highway fund has a significant balance available to be able to use. Selectman Congdon speaks of budgeting in next year's budget.

Selectman Ruane says they should be able to be installed within two weeks.

Selectman Ambrose motioned to lease the radios; Selectman Congdon provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Construction Zone Trolley Lights:

Selectman Ambrose motioned to purchase the trolley lights with the remote control, without the countdown totaling \$18,950

Selectman Congdon questioned if the crew had pushed for the delivery charge to be lowered, Selectman/road commissioner Ruane replied that the delivery is coming from Canada where they are manufactured and not Barre VT where the distributor is.

Selectman Congdon provided the second motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

EWP Revised Grant sign off

Admin Assistant Ashley Robinson spoke to the name change of Katie Nop on the EWP Grant signoff, to herself. Selectman Congdon motioned the sign off, Selectman Ambrose provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

BRIC Local Match Letter

Admin Assistant Ashley Robinson reviewed the difference between the numbers that had been approved in 2023, now that the work will not be completed until 2025, Lisa M. Kolb, the Hazard Mitigation Grants Manager for the state suggested we add for inflation of 2025. 10% inflation was added for this. The change would be \$57,700 as opposed to \$52,500 previously approved. The town is responsible for 25% of this grant and would be a payout of \$14,425. Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the higher inflated pricing signoff, and Selectman Ambrose provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Select Board Warrants

All new warrants and warrants previously signed by the designated select board members were approved and signed by all select board members.

Guests

Jan McCoy welcomed Ashley, wanted to acknowledge how well Katie Nop did her job. Jan would like to know about previously mentioned school consolidation survey on election day. Selectman Ambrose sent letters to the other three towns in our district and asked towns if they wanted to join in survey. He attended a Wallingford selectboard meeting, and they had a brief discussion on how the consolidation survey would work. They all agreed that it is too late for March elections and to think about November instead. Possibly work with the superintendent. Has not heard from Tinmouth and Shrewsbury. Selectman Menard asked what the schoolboard opinion is, Selectman Ambrose emailed school board chair Andrea Hawkins and she replied that she is open to the discussion. Selectman Congdon asked if Wallingford was feeling favorable, Selectman Ambrose replied that they weren't ready to go forward yet however were favorable to the conversation.

Jan McCoy questions covered bridge and wondered if the board has thought about continuing to keep Gorge road closed after the bridge is re-opened. Board speaks of the need for emergency services being able to have access to the back side of the airport via the road, and that it would be something to question the state about possibly making it a biking/walking/skiing pathway. Jan was worried about the road being in rough shape for when the road is opened back up. Selectman Ruane comments that the brush and overgrowth has been the biggest problem as of now. Chairman Klopchin says the road is looking great as he has spent time recently to see how it was.

Public Comments

N/A

Old Business

N/A

New Business

N/A

Town Officer's Report

Lister Kevin Peck reporting that the last few meetings they had spoken about re-appraisal. The listers reached out to property re-eval review and a statistical review will not be allowed due to the previous appraisal being five years prior. Kevin Peck spoke with NEMRIC and they are willing to give a bid but are booking out to 2028. The appraisal in 2017-2019 cost the town \$112,000. Listers are looking for a motion/direction to get bidding on re-appraisal. Selectboard Ambrose spoke of going with reappraisal personnel in the past and they were easy to work with, and didn't seem to have much push back from residents of the town. Selectman Congdon motioned to let listers go forward with bidding, Selectman Menard provided the second, however wants more than a single bid done. Robert wants to make sure NEMRIC is in the bid lineup. The motion was approved unanimously.

Clerk Gloria Menard updated of election day Tuesday March 5th at the town office from 10-7, and noted that absentee ballots are available to be sent out, as well as the ability to come vote in office from now until election day during business hours. Informational meeting is scheduled for Monday the 4th 6pm at the Community Center.

Select Board Member Concerns

Selectman Ruane wanted to welcome Ashley, and again thank you to Katie Nop for all she did while she was here.

Adjournment

Chairman Klopchin at 6:38 close out meeting. Everyone moved and approved.

SIGNED: Mike Klopchin Mike Klopchin, Chair

SIGNED: George Ambrose George Ambrose, Clerk