

MINUTES FROM 02/09/2021 ALBURGH SELECTBOARD MEETING

THE MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM. THE RECORDING CAN BE FOUND BY
CLICKING THE LINK HERE:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6SAo3a2jchXoTWQaz6tU77PBkhH1vLBYV4OhwPGYrcNd6iFO11ZLEwm4E7YJbedP.21w79duY--UIJHOS>

PRESENT: (All via Zoom) – Chairman, Lee Kimball, Alton Bruso, Chuck Pease, Ken Millman, Russell Duchaine, Clerk, Donna L. Bohannon

GUESTS: (All via Zoom) – Terry Tatro, Carol Behrman, Mallory Ovitt, Matthew LeFluer, Danielle Choiniere

7:00pm - OPEN REGULAR MEETING:

- Meeting called to order at 7pm by Chairman, Lee Kimball

ADJUST AGENDA (if needed):

- Three additions were requested
- **ADJUSTMENT #1:** What to do with the 2006 dump truck
- **ADJUSTMENT #2:** Zoom equipment for conference room
- **ADJUSTMENT #3:** Bookkeeping/financial matters

APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEETING MINUTES:

- 01/12/2021 REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
 - *Ken Millman motioned to approve the minutes from the 01/12/2021 Selectboard meeting as written – seconded by Chuck Pease – all in favor – motion carried.*
- 01/14/2021 BUDGET MEETING
 - *One typo was noted “can” should read “Ken”*
 - *Alton Bruso motioned to approve the minutes from the 01/14/2021 budget meeting as written with one typo fixed – seconded by Lee Kimball – all in favor – motion carried.*
- 01/21/2021 BUDGET MEETING
 - *Alton Bruso motioned to approve the minutes from the 01/21/2021 budget meeting as written -seconded by Russell Duchaine – all in favor – motion carried.*
- 01/25/2021 BUDGET MEETING
 - *One correction was noted – 4th bullet point ended at “to go over” and should be completed with “the final budget numbers”*

- *Ken Millman motioned to approve the minutes from the 01/25/2021 budget meeting with one correction – seconded by Chuck Pease – all in favor – motion carried.*
- 01/26/2021 REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
 - *Chuck Pease motioned to approve the minutes from the 01/26/2021 Selectboard meeting as written – seconded by Russell Duchaine – all in favor – motion carried.*

VISITOR INPUT:

- Matthew LeFluer asked if there was going to be a person hired to do returnables at the Transfer Station. He helped bring the returnables to the redemption center and thought there was talk about hiring a third person to handle returnables so they could be taken in more often.
- Ken Millman clarified that the Alburgh Family Clubhouse was going to take the bottles and cans back more often, NOT an additional person at the Transfer Station.
- Returnable money is being given to the Alburgh Family Clubhouse so that group is responsible for bringing them in.

NEW / OLD BUSINESS UPDATES / TABLED TOPICS AND / OR WAITING RESULTS:

- Matrix & Broad band – update –
 - Ken Millman reported that Chris Lynch from Matrix asked for a mailing list of Alburgh residents so they could send information to them.
 - Ken provided Chris with a list of mailing addresses based on the Grand List of the Town.
 - Ken also checked in with three other entities that have worked with or are working with Matrix to ascertain if they are satisfied with Matrix.
 - The three entities that he talked with are at different stages in the process and all three are pleased with their dealings with Matrix.
 - The other entities reported that they are pleased with the response time if they need help as well as how collaboratively Matrix works with them.
 - Ken also shared that a representative from AT&T contacted him about a similar program and asked Ken to send him a copy of the Matrix proposal so he could send a comparable proposal to the Town for consideration.
 - Russell Duchaine suggested redacting out any price quotes if the Board decided to send the proposal to the AT&T Representative.
 - The Board agreed that Ken should send the Matrix proposal to the AT&T representative with any price quotes redacted.

- Northwest Communications Union District (NW CUD) – Update
 - o Ken Millman reported that the Northwest C.U.D is going to start gathering letters from businesses that will help with grants.
 - o He also reported that Starlink, a satellite-based internet service, will have a beta test available to Alburgh in about six months.
 - o These topics will remain on the agenda and will be discussed as things progress.
- Junk/Litter/Nuisance Property complaint – Winters Lane – update –
 - o Animal control needs to inspect the property.
 - o No update currently.
- o Tabled until the next regular Selectboard meeting currently scheduled for 02/23/2021.
 - Outside audit – update –
 - o The auditing firm has all of the information they have asked for to date.
 - o The Treasurer will send an email to Rick Brigham, (auditor from Sullivan & Powers) to ask if a date for finalization is available.
 - Transfer Station topics as needed –
 - o Batteries
 - Russell Duchaine spoke with two companies that are willing to pick up auto batteries and pay the Town \$5 for each battery.
 - Cota’s Service Station in Swanton is insured and can pick them up as needed and Blaze Salvage can pick them up, but Russell did not know if they were insured.
 - The Board agreed that Cota’s, as a local business and one that travels to Alburgh to deliver parts to local shops, was the better choice.
 - Russell will contact Cota’s and let them know of the decision.
 - Battery pick-up will be coordinated as needed by the Transfer Station staff.
 - Brendan Letourneau’s last day for working at the Transfer Station is Wednesday, February 17th and no applications have been received.
 - Cody Martin was hired in the past to fill in as needed at the Transfer Station.
 - Lee Kimball will ask him if he is willing to fill again in until a new hire can be made.
 - Matthew LeFluer stated that he would be willing to fill in at the Transfer Station until someone is hired.

- Lee Kimball asked him to fill out an application and return it to the Town Clerks office.
- The Clerk will readvertise the position in the Islander, on Facebook, Front Porch Forum and the town website.
- Adding Act 164 to the ballot for special Town meeting that will be held on May 11th.
 - o Act 164 is Vermont’s new taxation and regulation law, enacted on October 7, 2020. Governor Phil Scott allowed the bill to become law without his signature.
 - o Towns must “opt-in” if they want to allow cannabis retailers to operate in their town. This is accomplished by adding the “opt-in” to a town ballot so the town can vote on whether to allow cannabis retailers or not.
 - o *Ken Millman motioned that this article be placed on the ballot for the special town meeting that will be held on May 11th, 2021 – seconded by Russell Duchaine – all in favor – motion carried.*
- **ADJUSTMENT #1:** What to do with the 2006 dump truck.
 - o Alton Brusio reminded the Board that the 2006 dump truck is still at the Missile Base and would like to Board to approve moving it to the Town office so it can be advertised for sale.
 - o The Board agreed that it should be moved and advertised in multiple formats as being for sale.
 - o The truck does not run but will be sold with an old dump body and an old plow.
 - o Alton will coordinate with the highway department to bring the truck to the town office.
- **ADJUSTMENT #2:** Zoom equipment for conference room
 - o Terry Tatro asked at a previous meeting if the Town would purchase the equipment to hold Zoom meetings in the conference room.
 - o The Clerk informed all that the equipment is all in the room and offered to set it up and test it.
- Carol Behrman asked if the camera have been installed at the Library yet and informed the Board that Matthew Lavigne is coming to Alburgh and is willing to install the equipment.
 - o The Board agreed that it can wait until Matthew is in Town.
 - o Updates will be made as available.
- Lee Kimball mentioned that Town meeting is in less than 3 weeks away and that the Board should have a plan for how to accommodate the meeting via Zoom.
 - o Lee suggested that the Board hold a “test meeting”.
 - o It was suggested that the Moderator, the Selectboard and the Town Clerk NOT be the host as they will be busy with other aspects of the meeting.

- o Danielle Choiniere volunteered to be the host and will monitor when someone from the audience wants to ask a question or has a comment.
- o Lee Kimball and Ken Millman will facilitate the test run to work out any Zoom kinks that might arise.
- Terry Tatro reminded the Selectboard that there will be a Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, February 16th and they are invited to attend.
 - o The Planning Board will be talking about the feasibility study for making changes to the Park.
 - o The Planning Commission was awarded a grant that will provide funding to improve a public spot in the town.
 - o They would like to form a committee to help with any projects they decide to do.
 - o The Selectboard agreed that a committee is a good idea.
 - o Terry will advertise that the Planning Commission would like volunteers to serve on the committee.
- Billing to Village for Village portion of Streetscape project now finished.
 - o Alton Brusco suggested that the Town send a bill to the Village for their portion of the Streetscape project, based on an agreement that was made between the Town and Village in 2015.
 - o Terry Tatro pointed out that the agreement was made after the funding for the Streetscape project was already in place.
 - o There was some discussion about whether or not the Town should bill the Village for half the cost of the out-of-pocket expense for the Streetscape project that was completed in 2019.
 - o The Village Trustees will be invited to the next regular Selectboard meeting so that this matter can be discussed with them.
- o Tabled until the next regular Selectboard meeting currently scheduled for 02/23/2021.
- **ADJUSTMENT #3: Bookkeeping/financial matters**
 - Ken Millman stated that he wanted to start a conversation about putting to town vote the possibility of changing from an elected treasurer position to a hired accountant position.
 - He explained that the financial duties of a municipality have become complex and are continuing to evolve.
 - He explained that multiple grants and projects associated with those grants are making the demand on the treasurer great and that they require a great deal of attention to accounting matters.
 - The Board agreed that the position of treasurer has become more complex and that the conversation should continue at future meetings.

- o Tabled until the next regular Selectboard meeting currently scheduled for 02/23/2021.

APPROVE INVOICES / SIGNATURES NEEDED.

- Alton Brusco approved and signed all invoices.

ADJOURN:

- *At 9pm Chuck Pease motioned to adjourn – seconded by Russell Duchaine – all in favor – motion carried – meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted, Donna L. Bohannon Alburgh Town Clerk

Please note the above minutes HAVE NOT been approved. Approval or changes to the minutes will be addressed at the next regular meeting, currently scheduled for 02/23/2021.