SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 14, 2014

CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00PM BY CHAIRMAN, DOUG MEDOR

PRESENT: *Doug Medor, Steve Aubin, Alton Bruso, Robert Creller, Guy Palardy and Roxanne Creller*

GUESTS: *George Boutah, Carol Pellerin and Irene Clarke*

**ADJUST THE AGENDA**

*Add: “ Islands in the Sun Building Committee Request to Begin Construction” after Approval of Minutes*

**APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

*12/17 Select Board Meeting Minutes*

*01/07 2014-2015 Budget Meeting Minutes*

*01/09 2014-2015 Budget Meeting Minutes*

*Guy Palardy motioned to accept all minutes as written – seconded by Robert Creller; motion carried.*

**ISLANDS IN THE SUN BUILDING COMMITTEE REQUESTS PERMISSION TO BEGIN RENOVATIONS**

*Irene Clarke handed all Board Members a copy of the Fire Marshall’s Report of 11/16/12 with plans for completion marked in red. Clerk asked about the cloth wiring with a note stating, “This is an issue that can be addressed in the future as grants and funds become available. I would need to do an extensive site visit to come up with a cost to replace the cloth 2 wire romex”. Clerk asked if they were talking about 2 years, 10 years? Irene stated when money was available. Clerk asked if it might be better to cut a hole in a wall that is known to have the fabric wire to see what is in store for the Building Committee; Irene advised they didn’t want to open a kettle of worms.*

*Robert Creller stated the Building Committee had provided everything asked of them and motioned to accept the proposal – seconded by Guy Palardy; motion carried.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

-Town Garage

* *pump station: pending - Doug Medor now has to change the floats and fix a leak on the bottom of 1 pump*
* *obtain 1” meter: pending - Steve Aubin to install*
* *drinking fountain: pending - Steve Aubin to install*
* *air compressor lines: pending – Clerk to have VT Mechanical bid on installation*
* *shelving system: pending – shelves in Orwell sold – Select Board looking for used shelving*
* *vault for new diesel tank: Camp Precast quoted $2825 for a vault. Guy Palardy stated the new tank is a single phase system and asked why another vault is needed and why the crack couldn’t be fixed, since it appears it’s only cosmetic. Doug Medor stated it should be able to be fixed by the Highway Dept. All Board Members agreed to have Highway Dept repair the cosmetic crack – delete.*
* *moving conex boxes: Clerk to contact Jimmy Blair to see if he has equipment to move 2 boxes*
* *steam cleaner: Doug Medor evaluated and found the cleaner to be antique and no good. Clerk to notify Highway Dept to put in metal bin – delete.*

*VLCT Hazards:*

*Description: deck on the excavator has rusted completely through in spots creating large holes in the deck*

*Board: Steve Aubin to confirm Highway Dept completed*

*Description: no ventilation for the welding area.*

*Board: no filtration system needed; VT Mechanical quoting on system and on installing air compressor lines*

*Description: items can be stored or placed in front of fire extinguishers or breaker panels*

*Board: Guy Palardy to confirm Highway Dept has painted a 3’ x 3’ square around all fire extinguishers*

*and breaker panels*

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**OLD BUSINESS** (con’t)

**-**Personal Vehicles in New Town Garage

*There have been complaints that personal vehicles have been seen in the new Town Garage when the Town trucks are running outside. Guy Palardy stated no personal vehicles should be inside the garage and will advise all Highway Dept personnel.*

-Joan Whitesell - Alburgh Springs Roadside

*Pending; Table until Spring on next meeting agenda.*

-Ron Hermann Request for “Quiet Please” Signs on Route 2

*District 8 sent back the VT Statute, which in summary states an advisory sign is exempt from State requirements if it is a panel which identifies the name of the tow, charter date, founded date or any other significant date in the history of the town. Alburgh has 3 such signs: which are the WELCOME TO ALBURGH signs near the Rouses Point Bridge, the Swanton Bridge and the North Hero Bridge. A “Quiet Please” sign could be placed on our welcome signs if the Board chooses but would be extremely far away from the Village.*

*Robert Creller motioned for Chairman to send Ron Hermann a letter explaining the Board chooses to NOT put an advisory sign on the WELCOME TO ALBURGH SIGNS and also send Ron a copy of the Statue – seconded by Steve Aubin; motion carried. Clerk to delete from next meeting agenda.*

-13 East Alburgh Road

*The house and garage at this address have been boarded up. Clerk needs to know what the next course of action is. Alton Bruso stated selling at an auction could be warned but Clerk advised if a petition was signed for a Town vote there would not be enough time to vote in March ’14; Alton the stated another vote could be coordinated after March if necessary but that would cost money.*

*Guy Palardy stated the Town is not in the realty business and we’re not in it to make money; the Clerk asked why we wouldn’t make as much money as we could. Clerk stated the Board could vote to put it to a vote in March, as there’s time now.*

*Doug Medor stated we should obtain advice from the Town Attorney. Clerk to contact the Town Attorney and ask for recommendations and what the specific laws are.*

-223 Greenwoods Road

*Steve Aubin will check to see if the Tenant has moved out yet. After the Tenant is gone, a Health Order will be needed so no one else moves in until there is sufficient water in place.*

-Bathroom Sink At Library

*The ceiling was ripped out and Steve Aubin says there’s no problem with piping in the ceiling. Clerk to make sure the ceiling gets put back together. Steve will go back to the Library and check the pipes running thru the wall and advise at the next meeting.*

**NEW BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS**

-USDA Grants – Community Facilities

*Applications are now being accepted for buildings such as community kitchens, libraries, technology projects, health center, municipal offices, etc. Current interest rates range from 4.5% to 4.625%. If the Board can think of any projects let Clerk know. Clerk to delete from next meeting agenda.*

-2014 Winter Workshop – Vermont Government Finance Officers’ Association

*This workshop will be on Thursday, February 6th at the Three Stallion Inn in Randolph, VT. If any Board Member wants to go just contact the Clerk. Clerk to delete from next meeting agenda.*

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**NEW BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS** (con’t)

-Holiday Light Committee

*Clerk requested to be taken off the Credit Union savings and checking account for the Holiday Light Committee and add Shanna Aubin. Clerk resigned from the Holiday Light Committee and is taking care of important issues before she leaves her position as Town Clerk. Mike Savage is on the accounts also but the Team likes 2 people as signers.*

*Robert Creller motioned to allow Clerk to be removed as signer and to add Shanna Aubin – seconded by Guy Palardy; Steve Aubin recused himself; motion carried. Clerk to work with Credit Union, set these items up then delete from next meeting agenda.*

-Green Up Day – Selection of Town Coordinator

*The current Clerk will not be Town Coordinator this year for Green Up Day. Town needs to appoint a new Coordinator and advise the State asap. Clerk to ask in Islander if anyone is interested.*

-Upgrade Security System at Municipal Building

*Clerk advised a couple cameras are needed at the Municipal Building along with remote viewing. DC Energy had provided a quote, which works out to $1485 with ½ payable when beginning and ½ payable when complete. Clerk has enough in equipment budget (under General Fund) to install now but would like thoughts from the Board.*

*Robert Creller motioned to have Clerk get cameras installed and upgrade to a DVR with remote viewing – seconded by Guy Palardy; motion carried.*

-Village Sidewalk Upkeep, Plowing & Mowing

*Board wondering why the Village doesn’t take care of sidewalks, mowing or plowing in the Village. The Village doesn’t pay the Town anything for the upkeep but the Town get no breaks on water or sewer charges.*

*Clerk to check Village Ordinances, get info from Secretary of State and Town Attorney on laws pertaining to Village upkeep in general and make a list of items the Town would like to discuss with the Village Trustees.*

-Streetscape Project

*Back in October ’13 a new sentence was added to any requests to the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAT), which reads, ”I certify that the required local match has not been provided by contributions from other federally assisted projects or programs”. This additional sentence was used beginning with Invoice #13. VAT now wants that same sentence to be put with paperwork for Invoice #12 also. Chairman to sign a letter requesting payment of Invoice #12 including that statement.*

*Steve Aubin motioned Chairman to sign revised letter – seconded by Robert Creller; motion carried. Clerk to delete from next meeting agenda.*

-Pitbull Problem – 14 Vantine Avenue

*Steve Aubin advised Dick Earnst’s hand was bitten quite badly at 14 Vantine Avenue by a pitbull that does not belong to the owner of the property but the owner is taking care of the dog for a different family member. The pitbull has had his rabies shot because it was previously picked up by Animal Control and brought to the Humane*

*Society; before the Humane Society released the dog they made sure it had a rabies shot. With that said, there’s not much the Town can do about the dog biting Mr. Earnst because it was on private property, however, Clerk advised complaints have been received about a pitbull terrorizing the area, which was never found, but perhaps this is the pitbull. Clerk thought a letter from the Chairman and Health Officer to the owner of the property advising to follow the new Dog Ordinance would be appropriate.*

*Robert Creller motioned the Clerk draft a letter for the next meeting and ALL Board Members could sign – seconded by Guy Palardy; motion carried. Clerk to prepare letter and delete from next meeting agenda.*

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**NEW BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS** (con’t)

-Municipal Building WIFI

*Clerk received request to open WIFI to the public at the Municipal Building. Clerk didn’t know why it was password protected so she asked people knowledgeable about computers. Clerk was told that the office runs many systems and if WIFI was being utilized by all employees plus others the system may malfunction and have problems. Clerk stated Board could vote as they wished but added the personnel in the Municipal Building do not need problems with any systems that are needed to get their jobs done.*

*Guy Palardy motioned to NOT allow the WIFI password to be given out, since there is already WIFI available at the Library, the Welcome Center and according to paperwork will be installed at the Senior Building – seconded by Steve Aubin; motion carried. Clerk to notify requestor and delete from next meeting agenda.*

-Formal Complaint Received – 67 Truck Route – Pony Loose

*Clerk received a formal complaint in December about the way Animal Control handled a loose pony on the Truck Route back in November. Animal Control had received several calls about a loose pony running out in the rain so Animal Control had to retrieve the pony and made sure it had adequate food, water and shelter. Clerk received reports from both Animal Control substitutes and generated a draft letter for the Board to read.*

*Robert Creller motioned Chairman to sign letter – seconded by Steve Aubin; motion carried. Clerk to send letter and delete from next meeting agenda.*

-Letter of Agreement – Marshall & Swift Cost Tables (for Listers)

*VT State Property Valuation and Review requested all Towns pay for Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Cost Tables Services and sign a letter of agreement. The cost is $238.81 to be paid to the VT Dept of Taxes.*

*Steve Aubin motioned Chairman to sign Letter of Agreement and Treasurer to pay $238.81 to the VT Dept of Taxes – seconded by Robert Creller; motion carried. Clerk to take care of payment and agreement and delete from next meeting agenda.*

**VISITOR INPUT**

*Carol Pellerin said she had read minutes recently in regards to the Center Bay beach and wanted to state her thoughts to the Board to make sure the beach can be used by all Town’s people. Carol stated the same people trying to take the beach away have put bushes right up to the right-of-way to the cemetery and they’re trying to take over all the property. Carol also said this issue has been going on for over 20+ years and it’s about time the Select Board stopped it.*

*Robert Creller said the big rocks on the South East side of the shore should be moved around so there’s room to turn around, park, swim, etc. but would still stop erosion.*

*Robert Creller motioned the Highway Dept put the big rocks straight that follow the shore to allow cars to park, turn around, etc. – seconded by Guy Palardy; motion carried. Clerk to send Highway Dept an email and advise them to contact Mr. Creller if they need further explanation about the rocks and to delete from next meeting agenda.*

*George Boutah has noticed many meetings go into Executive Session for the Highway Dept Foreman and wondered what is going on. Doug Medor stated it has been a long process and that the Board is waiting for certain pieces of information to come back from various locations, which will assist the Board making a final decision. Doug also stated that a decision should be made in the next little while but definitely before March.*

**TABLED TOPICS AND/OR WAITING RESULTS**

-Alburgh Springs Community Hall Leases / *no update at this time*

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**TABLED TOPICS AND/OR WAITING RESULTS** (con’t)

-Grand Isle Rec Committee – County Swim Program

*No representative yet. (Note: this topic was left off agenda by mistake…again!!!)*

-Physical Inventory

*Transfer Station – began 11/06*

*Municipal Office – began 11/08- not needed / VLCT provides a yearly breakdown utilized by the Auditors - delete*

*Town Garage – began 11/06 – Guy Palardy to work with Rodney James to get info on a computer spreadsheet*

*-*Cemetery on Reynolds Land in Alburgh Springs / *no update at this time*

-Missile Base Sale / Spring 2014 / *no update at this time*

-Request for Opening Town Road #14 / *no update at this time*

**-**Danny R. Bevins vs. William J. Duchaine & Town of Alburgh / *no update at this time*

**APPROVE INVOICES**

*All invoices approved.*

*Doug Medor brought his computer and showed the Board pressure washers/steam cleaners. Doug feels it’s imperative that salt be washed off the trucks very frequently to make sure they do not rust away. Currently, one truck is receiving a new body, which will cost almost $30K because it rusted out. Doug is going to New Hampshire this weekend and would like authorization to purchase a machine that he feels is best for the Town.*

*Guy Palardy motioned to allow Doug Medor to purchase a steam machine up to $4,500 – seconded by Robert Creller; motion carried.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: HIGHWAY DEPT FOREMAN DISCUSSION**

*An Executive Session was listed on the agenda but did not take place.*

**ADJOURN**

*Doug Medor motioned to adjourn at 9:06pm – seconded by Robert Creller; motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne N. Creller

Alburgh Town Clerk/Treasurer