

MINUTES FROM 03/28/2017 SELECTBOARD MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman, Tyler Gotshall at 7pm, Robert Creller, Alton Brusco, Chuck Pease at 6:37pm, Clerk. Donna L. Bohannon

GUESTS: Terry Tatro (Alburgh Planning Commission), Leeann Porto (Alburgh Planning Commission), Carol, Behrman (Alburgh Planning Commission), Mike Donoghue (The Islander newspaper), Ed Polk, Darwin Cameron, David Ladd (Alburgh Snow Springers) Bernard (Bing) Pero

6:00pm – OPEN MEETING –

- At 6:40pm Alton Brusco called the meeting to order.

ABANDONED BUILDING ORDINANCE – Review

- The Board discussed the best approach to reviewing this proposed ordinance and agreed that it would be best to inspect the proposed ordinance line by line and make any changes needed.
 - The Board recommended that all five of them (the Selectmen) would act as the public health officers, the people who would be reviewing any buildings that may potentially fall under the description of abandoned property.
 - It was later mentioned that they would not be able to be “judge and jury” and that if they acted as the inspecting officers of a property they would not be able to hear an appeal if the property owner did not agree with their decision.
 - The Board proceeded to inspect the proposed ordinance line by line and made no changes to it as it was written.
 - There was a question about what amount to charge for a fine should one be incurred. This was not decided on.

- Clerk will consult with Town attorney to confirm the legalities of this ordinance.
- Tabled until the next regular meeting currently scheduled for 04/11/2017.

7:00pm – OPEN REGULAR MEETING:

At 7:10pm Chairman, Tyler Gotshall called the regular meeting to order

ADJUST AGENDA (if needed):

- Two adjustments from the Clerk.
 - Pay question
 - Grants need signatures.

TABLED TOPICS AND / OR WAITING RESULTS

- No tabled topics or waiting results

NEW BUSINESS:

- One Auditor needed – request for letters of interest
 - Auditor position needs to be filled
 - Earl Knudsen informed the Clerk that he would be willing to fill in for a year if the Board chose to appoint him.
 - Can Earle be appointed or should the position be advertised?
 - Tyler felt that it should be advertised for the public.
 - Clerk will advertise the position until the April 25th Board meeting.

VISITOR INPUT:

- David Ladd was in attendance as a representative for the Alburgh Snow Springers.
 - He began by informing the Board that there has been some vandalism of snowmobile signs and that there have been two serious injuries on the

VAST trail. In both cases, the injured parties were not properly registered or VAST permitted to ride the trails.

- He stated that the Sheriff's Department is willing and able to patrol the trails in an attempt to deter some of this behavior.
- The Sheriff's Department has access to grants that will pay for some equipment and also for the time the Sheriff's patrol so there will not be an additional tax burden to the property owners of the Towns.
- The Snow Springers and the Sheriff's Department are asking for the blessing of the Selectboard.
- Four members present agreed that this would be beneficial and gave their approval of the proposal.
- Ed Polk was present to express his concern about the tax bills for the South Alburgh Fire District #2.
 - Ed began by describing the time line of the project.
 - In May of 2004, the Selectboard at the time made a recommendation to form a committee to look at the possibility of creating a water district and bringing municipal water to South Alburgh. This committee was approved and formed.
 - There were questions about how to fund this project.
 - In September of 2004 the Town of Alburgh warned the voters of the SAFD#2 district that there was going to be a bond vote for a 6.9-million-dollar bond to provide water services to South Alburgh.
 - Original discussions described the water line coming over from North Hero into South Alburgh. This plan fell through.
 - In Ed's opinion, it appeared that little happened on this project between 2005 and 2013.
 - SAFD#2 chose to begin phase #1 of the project, which is the line that runs down the West Shore.
 - This phase incurred a burden of \$580,000, yet in Ed's opinion there was not another vote of the tax payers in the district to approve that expense.

- He does not recall any documents being sent to residents to ask for approval of this debt.
- The next event that took place was a tax debt to all residents within the South Alburgh Fire District #2 that was included on the Town tax bills.
- This happened without a new vote of the people or, in Ed's memory, the tax payers in the District receiving any notice of the tax.
- Ed explained that the reason he was bringing this to the attention of the Selectboard is because in 2004, the Selectboard appointed the committee that represents the South Alburgh Fire District #2.
- He feels that the Selectboard needs to re-evaluate the whole water district and that the public should be warned properly before any further action takes place.
- Terry Tatro reminded all that SAFD#2 does hold an annual meeting in June that is more than likely properly warned and that would be the time for residents to express their concern and opinions.
- Terry also expressed that the residents of the District could create a petition and have it signed by the voters of the District and that they can attend the regular meetings.

OLD BUSINESS / UPDATES

- No old business or updates.

APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEETING MINUTES:

- **02/28//2017 SELECTBOARD MEETING**
 - *Alton Brusio motioned to approve the minutes from the 02/28/2017 Selectboard meeting as written – seconded by Bobby Creller – all in favor – motion carried.*
- **03/08/2017 SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING**
 - *Alton Brusio motioned to approve the minutes from the 03/08/2017 Special Selectboard meeting as written – seconded by Bobby Creller – all in favor – motion carried.*

APPROVE INVOICES AND / OR OVERWEIGHT PERMITS:

- All overweight permits approved and signed
- All invoices approved and signed

EXECUTIVE SESSION: For the purpose of labor relations agreements with employee; when the public body has made a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)

- *At 8:10pm Tyler Gotshall motioned to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of labor relations agreements with employee; when the public body has made a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) – seconded by Chuck Pease – all in favor – motion carried – Board in Executive Session – Bernard (Bing) Pero was invited to remain in Executive Session with the Selectboard and Clerk.*
- *At 8:40pm Chuck Pease motioned to leave Executive Session – seconded by Bobby Creller – all in favor – motion carried – Board out of Executive Session.*
- The public were invited back in.
- *Tyler Gotshall motioned to accept the resignation of Bernard (Bing) Pero – seconded by Chuck Pease – all in favor – motion carried – Effective April 2nd Bernard (Bing) Pero will no longer be an employee of the Town of Alburgh.*
- *Tyler Gotshall motioned to pay Bing for 40 hours of vacation time and 40 hours of sick time that he has earned – seconded by Alton Brusco -all in favor – motion carried – Bernard Pero will be paid for 80 hours of time accumulated.*
- Tyler extended a sincere thank-you to Bing, that was echoed by the other Board members.

- There was a payroll question asked of the Board that they considered addressing in Executive Session. After reviewing the question, it was determined that it did not need to be discussed in Executive Session but could be addressed in an open meeting.
 - *Alton Brusio motioned that the payroll question will be discussed at the next regular meeting currently scheduled for 04/11/2017 – seconded by Chuck Pease – all in favor – motion carried – Payroll question will be added to the 04/11/2017 agenda.*

ADJOURN:

At 8:45pm Alton Brusio motioned to adjourn – seconded by Bobby Creller – 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 04/11/2017.