SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

FROM 07/22/2014

**PRESENT –** Robert Creller, Alton Bruso, Bernard Savage, Steve Aubin, Guy Palardy and Donna Bohannon.

**GUESTS –** Kris Smith (VT Electric Coop), Judith Krizan, Dick Ernst, Cheryl Dunn, Leeann Porto, Renee Patterson, Rebekah Curtis, Dave Miller, Julie Miller, Gary Lockerby, Doug Disabito, Amy Erno Mashtare, Armand Premo, Tony Towsley, Linda Gotshall, Terry Tatro.

**7PM – OPEN MEETING:** Meeting called to order at 7PM by Board Chairman Robert Creller.

**ADJUST THE AGENDA (if needed):** No adjustments needed.

1. **APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEETING MINUTES:**

* 07/08/2014 SELECTBOARD MEETING
* 07/10/2014 SPECIAL MEETING – PURCHASE OF A TRUCK
  + **Guy Palardy motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 07/08/2014 and the special meeting minutes from 07/10/2014 as written – all in favor – *motion carried.***

1. **NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Kris Smith – VT Electric Coop RE: The substation –** Mr. Smith presented the Board and guests with the plan for a new substation to be built approximately one mile north of the exiting substation. Mr. Smith gave a brief history of the existing substation and an overview of the plan for the new substation. He presented the board with maps of the area showing the old substation as well as the site for the new substation. He explained all of the factors that VEC took into consideration when they chose the location for the new substation. He explained that there are only two substations that serve all of Grand Isle County and that if one of them was shut down that the other one is able to take over for a short time. Mr. Miller asked what is going to happen to the old substation once the new one is built and working. Mr. Smith replies that the old site will be returned to its natural state. He stated that the fence will be taken down as well as the majority of the structure. One of the poles will have to remain in place but the rest of the area will be returned to its natural state. Mr. Miller also wanted to know if there will be a significant amount of “down time” when the switch over takes place. Mr. Smith responded that there should only be approximately a five minute power outage when the switch is made. Leeann Porto asked if this was going to increase the taxes in the town, raise the electric bills or if it was going to cost the residents or the Town anything to build this. Mr. Smith responded that electricity bills would not increase because of the substation. Mr. Smith did inform the Board and the visitors that there would have to be three new utility poles erected in the wetlands that abut the new site but that the state environmental agency has approved this. VEC has been working with environmental consultants on the project from the beginning. The request that VEC is making of the Selectboard as well as the Planning Commissions’ (Regional and Town) is that they sign a waiver of the 45 day waiting period before work begins. The waiver simply gives them a chance to start the project sooner than later. People can still ask questions and complain if they choose to. The reason that they are requesting the waiver is that they want to be able to set the three “wetland” poles in February as that will be the ideal time to do so. They will be meeting with all of the abutting land owners to get permission for the project before it starts. – **Guy Palardy motioned to approve the signing of the 45 day waiver – Steve Aubin seconded – all in favor *– motion carried.***
* **Judith Krizan – Walkway to the lake – West Shore Road –** Ms. Krizan is requesting that the walkway to the beach across from her home be replaced as it was buried under stone when the Town was filling in the shoreline during the flood of 2011. Ms. Krizan claims that she had a simple walkway with a handrail and that the stones were dumped on top of it. She would like to be able to go down to her beach but the rocks that were placed there to prevent the road from washing out make it impossible for her to get to the beach. She has difficulty walking and needs a flat even surface and a handrail in order to navigate her way to the beach safely. Guy Palardy has been to the site on other occasions and Bernard Savage was one of the crew that was hauling the stone at the time of the flood. There seems to be a question about whether or not the wooden walkway was there when the stones were put down. It is unclear whether or not it was there or if it had been washed away by the high water. The members of the Board are going to go to the site with Bernard (Bing) Pero and see if they can ascertain if the rocks were placed on top of the walkway and try to come up with a resolution suitable to all parties. ***No motion made* – Board members and Bing to visit Ms. Krizan’s property.**
* **Peter Prairie – Fireworks complaint –** (This is Paul Prairie – clerk apologizes) – Mr. Prairie sent in a complain to the Town because the annual Fourth of July fireworks were fired directly over his home and barn and he is concerned that the burning embers will land on his barn and catch it on fire. He also expressed irritation over the cleanup that is involved every year after the fireworks. Mr. Prairie is requesting that the Town redirect the Fireworks to the north of his barn as the possibility of fire is his greatest concern. **Bernard Savage motioned that the fireworks be redirected in the future – guy Palardy seconded – all in favor – *motion carried*. – The Board will also come up with a plan for assisting with the cleanup in the future.**
* **Request from 8th grade to hold a coin drop –** Renee Pattersonand Rebekah Curtis requested permission for the graduating class of 2015 to hold a coin drop on the weekend of October 11th, 2014. The students voted to go to Lake George for their trip. This is not a school sponsored trip but a trip that the parents and students are putting together for the graduates. They will be requiring that any student that goes on the trip has to have a parent on the trip with them. **Alton Bruso motioned to allow the graduating 8th class to hold a coin drop on the weekend of October 11th – Bernard Savage seconded – all in favor – *motion carried.***
* **Greenwoods Road ditches –** Gary Lockerby is requesting that the ditches and culverts on Greenwoods Road be dug out and cleaned up. He stated that there are cattails and trees growing in some of the ditches near his home and that the overgrowth is causing the ditches to back up and consequently flooding some of his property as well as some of his neighbors. Mr. Lockerby stated that if the Town can get them cleaned up, he may be able to keep up the maintenance on them. . ***No motion made* – Alton Bruso, Guy Palardy and Bing to visit Mr. Lockerby’s property, assess the situation and fit it in Bing’s schedule as soon as feasible.**
* **Amy Erno Mashtare – Several items to be discussed –** 
  + Amy Erno Mashtare was informed by Drummac (Rodem) that the metal is not going to Montreal any more, it is going to Chateguay, NY and they are paying $150 per ton. ***Amy will continue to call around on a monthly basis so that the metal can be sent to the highest paying company.***
  + Despite repeated requests to Drummac for the weight slips for the metal from January to present, they have not produced any for her. She needs the slips so that she can file the necessary quarterly reports for the Transfer Station. There have been several loads of metal taken since January 1st. ***Linda Gotshall to call Drummac (Rodem) to request the weight slips.***
  + Storage space is limited at the Transfer Station. There has been discussion in the past about building a pole barn to store the bales of plastic and paper. Jim Honsinger (Advantage Property Services) had previously submitted a bid for the building of the pole barn. ***Amy Erno Mashtare will contact the proper authority to inquire as to whether or not a permit will be necessary to build the pole barn.***
  + Eventually the fork lift that is currently being used is going to be obsolete and a new one will be needed. It was discussed that a skid steer would be a better choice as it will be able to perform the many different functions that are needed.
  + One of the compactor boxes is rotting out and soon will not be able to be hauled. We have another box but the doors are bad on it. The doors on the “rotting” compactor box are good so they can be used on the extra box.
  + Amy needs a medical procedure that will permit her from being able to wear required footwear. She is requesting to be able to continue working. She will remain in the office at all times and not work out in the yard.  **Bernard Savage motioned to allow Amy to work her regular schedule with the requirement that she ONLY work in the office and not out in the yard at all – seconded by Guy Palardy – all in favor – *motion carried.***
  + “Free Dump Day” – There has been discussion about this at several meetings. Amy has proposed a new price list for the Board to approve. The Board discussed having another “Half off Dump Day” as opposed to a “Free Dump Day”. **Guy Palardy motioned to approve a “Half off Dump Day” for two days for the weekend of August 23rd and 24th. Garbage and tires are excluded from the half off – Bernard Savage seconded – all in favor – *motion carried.* Amy to inform patrons to the Transfer Station and advertise the Half off weekend making sure that they are aware that trash and tires are excluded.**
* **Official locations for posting minutes / agenda – *Clerk will post minutes and agenda at the Alburgh Post Office and On The Run (also known as Cross Roads Mobile).***

1. **TABLES TOPICS / WAITING FOR RESULTS:**

* **Decision on Truck Route dogs – *Update*** – There was a great deal more discussion as to the fate of these two dogs. Tony Towsley was present and made the Board aware that Katie Creller has made restitution in the amount of $180- to Bob Grim on the loss of his livestock. Both of the dogs are currently being housed at the home of Mr. Towsley’s father in Swanton. Shasta, the husky has a home that she can be released to. The people have another Husky and they are aware of her history. This home is located in Swanton. Mr. Towsley would like Copper, the Rottweiler to be released to him. He is asking that he and Copper be given a second chance. Mr. Towsley has assured the Board that he will be building an enclosure that Copper will not be able to escape from. Bernard Savage spoke with Mr. Grim who stated that he did not want the dogs to be euthanized but wanted them contained better. Mr. Towsley has assured the Board that if they allow Copper to come back that he will be contained at all times. The Board has made Mr. Towsley aware that if they do allow Copper to come back that he will be fully responsible for anything that happens pertaining to him. If he gets out again and causes any harm to another animal, Mr. Towsley will be expected to have him euthanized without any initiation from the Town. Mr. Towsley stated that he is aware of that and would not want to do that but that he would follow through on that action without question. He is also aware that if there is another occurrence he will responsible once again for any and all restitution that needs to be made. Guy Palardy stated that this is not a dog that is vicious to humans, only small animals and that Mr. Towsley will have to keep Copper away from small animals. Clerk stated that Copper should not be allowed back until the enclosure is completed and the Board has approved the structure. **Bernard Savage motioned to allow Mr. Towsley and Copper a second chance with the preceding provisions – Guy Palardy seconded – Steve Aubin opposed – Alton Bruso and Robert Creller accepted – a quorum agreed – *motion carried.***
* **Ordinance review by Attorney, David Rugh – *Update –*** There was some discussion about the noise ordinance particularly. Leeann Porto was present inquire about the progress of a new noise ordinance. **Alton Bruso motioned for clerk to revise the noise ordinance so that it was clearer – Guy Palardy seconded – all in favor – *motion carried –* Clerk to revise noise ordinance and present to Board at the next meeting currently scheduled for August 12th 2014. The remaining ordinance review is tabled until the next Board meeting currently scheduled for August 12th, 2014.**

1. **OLD BUSINESS:**
   * **Town garage**
     + **Plumbing / Drinking Fountain – *Update –* Work is not complete – Steve Aubin will be completing it the week of July 14th, 2014. –** Work still not complete – updates to continue.
     + **Air Compressor Lines – *Update–* Work is not complete – Steve Aubin will be completing it the week of July 14th, 2014.** The job cannot be completed as they need regulators for the air lines. – ***Bernard (Bing) Pero to order the regulators.***
2. **VISITOR INPUT / MISCELLANEOUS:**

* David Miller – 29 West Shore Road would like the Town to look at the culvert in front of his home. Mr. Miller stated that since Munson Earth Movers has been putting in the new water line, the end of his culvert has been covered and the water does not drain off his property as well as it did before. He proposed a plan that would require some extra culvert to be installed from the road down to the lake. He is willing to absorb half the cost of the culvert (approximately $150- ) if the town would pay the other half of the cost (approximately $150- ). There is a seawall in place near where the culvert would have to be placed and Mr. Miller would like to make sure that the seawall does not get disturbed. There was some discussion as to who would be responsible for any such work, if it is determined that there is damage caused by the work, the Town of Alburgh or Munson Earth Movers. – **The Board is to schedule a time and date to meet at the property with Mr. Miller and Bing so that a determination can be made about how to proceed. – *Bing is to do no digging until determination is made. Robert Creller to get in touch with Mr. Miller to schedule the time for a meeting.***
* Cheryl Dunn would like the Board to know that she is interested in the Lister position if it is indeed vacant. The Board has not yet accepted Richard Bayer’s resignation. If they do and a third Lister needs to be appointed, Ms. Dunn would like it know that she is interested. Clerk, Donna Bohannon, also expressed an interest in the position. ***No determination made at this time.***
* Linda Gotshall had two requests that needed to be addressed.
  + Linda inquired as to the rate of pay that Corrine Russin (the new auditor) would be receiving and when she would be expected to begin work. There was some discussion about the rate of pay that the auditors receive. It was agreed that minimum wage was too low and that they deserved more. **Robert Creller motioned to pay ALL of the auditors $10 per hour starting immediately – Alton Bruso seconded – all in favor – *motion carried*. Linda Gotshall to contact Ms. Russin to let her know that her rate of pay will be $10- per hour and that there will be a representative from NEMRC at the Town Office on Friday, July 25th if she would like to come in and see how the Town does the auditing.**
  + Linda wanted the Board to know that Danielle James Choiniere has been an employee for several years and has not had a vacation. Linda requested that the Board authorize a five day paid vacation for Danielle. **Robert Creller motioned to grant a five day paid vacation to Danielle James Choiniere – seconded by Bernard Savage – ALL in agreement – *motion carried*.** 
    - **Alton Bruso motioned to enter into executive session at 9:45PM to discuss a personnel issue – Bernard Savage seconded – all in favor – *motion carried –* Board is in executive session.**
    - **Steve Aubin motioned to leave executive session at 10:30 – Guy Palardy seconded – all in favor – *motion carried –* Board is out of executive session. *NO ACTION TAKEN***
* The Board chose to NOT accept Mr. Richard Bayer’s resignation. There is no need to appoint a third Lister.
* The Board voted to agree to mediate a legal matter.

1. **APPROVE INVOICES AND / OR OVERWEIGHT SLIPS:** All invoices were signed - no overweight slips to sign.
2. **ADJOURN: Alton Bruso motioned to adjourn at 10:45PM – seconded by Steve Aubin – all in favor – *motion carried –* meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted, Donna L. Bohannon Alburgh Town Clerk

/dlb

**Please note the above minutes HAVE NOT been approved. Approval or changes to the minutes will be addressed at the next meeting, currently scheduled for August 12th, 2014.**