

MINUTES FROM 04/12/2016 SELECTBOARD MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Tyler Gotshall, Robert Creller Jr., Alton Brusco, Lee Kimball, Chuck Pease, Ass't Clerk Danielle James Choiniere

GUESTS: Joan Krizer, Renée Murray, Linda Gotshall, Willie Burbank, Mike Lamphere, Renée Creller, Bernard "Bing" Pero, Leeann Porto, Donna Bohannon, Terry Tatro, Joe Bondi, Denise Smith, Julie Moore

OPEN MEETING

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Tyler Gotshall

ADJUST THE AGENDA (If Needed)

- Three adjustments to the agenda needed:
 - Coindrop request for the Firemen's Auxiliary
 - Julie Moore, Denise Smith & Joe Bondi on behalf of the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain
 - Willie Burbank on behalf of the Alburgh Business Community Group

ANIMAL CONTROL ISSUE - JOAN KRIZER

- Joan addressed that members of Robert Creller's cattle herd were repeatedly getting loose last year and this spring. Robert Creller reported he bought a new, stronger electric fencer and as of the meeting none had gotten out since its installation.
- Joan also brought up the lack of dogs registered. If she writes letters to dog owners, she would like board support. Lee Kimball agreed they will provide support if she supports the board by following their requests for a written report on James Martin's dogs and their cow mauling. Joan expressed she doesn't do reports and never received a written request for that information, but she has all the information and can sit down with Donna Bohannon and get it typed. Lee Kimball provided Joan with a copy of the board's written request.

STORMWATER REPORT - FRIENDS OF NORTHERN LAKE CHAMPLAIN

- Julie Moore of Stone Environmental passed out a summary of a report completed last year. They noted 20-25 areas in Alburgh they wished to visit, and did so with the highway foreman and road commissioner. Lee Kimball asked what brought them to Alburgh to which they replied the state and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) trying to cut the amount of pollutants, especially phosphorus, reaching Lake Champlain and feeding algae blooms. Stormwater, agriculture, and wastewater are the largest sources. They noted 7 top sites in town contributing to poor drainage, runoff, etc. Several of them were on private property. Once the town, likely with an engineer's help, devises a plan to repair these areas, grant money is available. The school has already submitted for a grant. They suggested a few more resources such as Terry Tatro of the planning commission, Regional Planning, and Jan Marinelli of the Lake Champlain Islands Economic Development Corporation.
- Some members of the board were underwhelmed, thinking there were worse areas in the state, but agreed the effects to the lake were cumulative. They would perhaps schedule some site visits.

ALBURGH ABC GROUP - WILLIE BURBANK

- Willie announced there would be no street festival this year as not many children attended in the past. They were hoping to launch a "Picnic in the Park" on July 9 and/or August 13, both Saturdays in late afternoon in the park behind the senior center. Free food and a band were scheduled, perhaps a bike

ride.

- *Alton Bruso motioned to allow the Picnic in the Park at the date of their choice – seconded by Lee Kimball – all in favor – motion carried.*
- ABC also wanted to make improvements to the ice rink and the park such as:
 - Leave the rink up and paint it dark green
 - Level the ground and consider landscaping
 - Install a volleyball net
 - Concrete the rink's interior to allow for better ice formation and summer skating/basketball

Both Harrison Concrete and S.D. Ireland would donate, and Fred Bourgeois and Richard Stockwell offered to help. ABC would still need rebar or mesh. The board wanted to see the site before giving any authorization, but should have an answer by the next board meeting.

COIN DROP - FIREMEN'S AUXILIARY

- Barbara Baker submitted a request for May 27th with a rain date of May 28th.
 - *Alton Bruso motioned to approve the coin drop – seconded by Robert Creller – all in favor – motion carried.*

TREE AT GREENWOODS & LITTLE WOODS RD JUNCTION

- For years this tree has looked dangerous for vehicular traffic. Lee Kimball took pictures and noted the poplar was largely dead. The highway foreman and road commissioner analyzed the price to cut it down, about \$825+ dollars. Bing Pero confirmed it was within the town right of way and he can organize the task.
 - *Robert Creller motioned to hire a crew to cut the tree – seconded by Lee Kimball – all in favor – motion carried.*

WOOD LANE ROAD SIGN

- While E911 coordinators correct road organization, at least one resident on Wood Lane requests a sign notifying traffic that the end portion of the road is private. The board and highway foreman agreed the sign, and any new ones in similar situations, be paid by the town and formulated as "<Road name> PVT".
 - *Chuck Pease motioned to adopt sign style for this and any other corrections in this manner occurring as part of E911 upgrade – seconded by Alton Bruso – all in favor – motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS - BACKHOE PURCHASE

- Lee Kimball spoke with a Beauregard Equipment representative, researching the term "operating lease". He said many places won't do those with municipalities, though Terry Tatro did bring up some companies do. Alton Bruso was against a new backhoe, saying the board should see if a definite need is there. He countered that a loader may be sufficient and would rather see the funds go to paving roads. Bing Pero disclosed the 2005 backhoe needs new tires (about \$2,400), a new radiator (about \$1,000), and the bucket (bent) also has an electrical issue. Right now, it has a trade-in value of \$30,000, shaving ¼ off the \$120,000 price of a new backhoe. The longer the town waits, the more its trade-in value depreciates.
- Terry Tatro asked if a new backhoe was budgeted for, Bruso said no, however \$20,000 on July 1, 2016 will be available for capital expenses. After a few years of budgeting, perhaps a purchase can occur in the future. Tyler Gotshall asked Bing if in 5 years he foresees other equipment failing. Bing replied the Zetor mower and 2007 truck, and said the town has no game plan for capital expenses and needs one.

Tyler, Lee, and Chuck would like to see a replacement plan started and maintained for town roads, equipment, and vehicles.

TABLED TOPIC - T.N.T. DRUG TESTING

- Remains tabled.

TABLED TOPIC - AUDITOR VACANCY

- The select board received two requests from Bill Karstens and Courtney Helfrich. Linda Gotshall thought the latter, being the town clerk's daughter, would be a conflict of interest. Legally it is not a conflict, ethically, the concern was noted. Terry Tatro stated the board did not need to make a decision tonight, that they could do interviews or extend the application deadline.
 - *Lee Kimball motioned to table appointing an auditor and to readvertise the vacancy – seconded by Chuck Pease – all in favor – motion carried.*

VISITOR INPUT

- Though not present, town attorney David Rugh asked via email to adjust some of the wording he originally had provided in the 3/22 select board draft minutes. The board reviewed the alterations to his legal wording.
 - *Tyler Gotshall motioned to accept said changes by David Rugh to the 3/22/16 meeting minutes – seconded by Alton Bruso – all in favor – motion carried.*
- Terry Tatro, after appearing late from a prior meeting, mentioned the stormwater topic, state-wide, was going to be a future issue. He had no immediate suggestions on implementing the proposed alterations by the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain and their associates.
- Leeann Porto, also attending late from a prior meeting, asked about the update with animal control. Donna Bohannon reiterated she had talked to Joan Krizer about submitting written documentation on the case with James Martin's dogs.
- Alton Bruso asked the other board members if they'd consent to having Green Valley take a look at the #2 compactor motor. It currently kicks the breaker.
 - *Lee Kimball motioned to have Green Valley evaluate the motor – seconded by Alton Bruso – all in favor – motion carried.*
- The board brought up the quantity of plastic that needed baling at the transfer station, as well as comparing the bank statement with cash receipt reports and noting more was being deposited in the bank than what the receipt reports show. Lee Kimball said he was also asking the transfer station foreman to formulate a project list.

APPROVE INVOICES AND / OR OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

- Invoices and liquor licenses approved and signed by all five members of the Board.
- Overweight permits approved and signed by the Road Commissioner Alton Bruso.

ADJOURN:

- *At 10:05 pm Lee Kimball motioned to adjourn – seconded by Chuck Pease – all in favor – motion carried – meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle James Choiniere
Alburgh Ass't Town Clerk

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 April 26, 2016.