

MINUTES FROM 08/23/2016 SELECTBOARD MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman, Tyler Gotshall, Robert Creller, Alton Brusio, Lee Kimball, Chuck Pease, Clerk, Donna L. Bohannon

GUESTS: Terry Tatro, Darwin Cameron, George Boutah, Linda Gotshall, Bethany Remmers
(Northwest Regional Planning)

7PM - OPEN MEETING:

Chairman Tyler Gotshall called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

1. ADJUST THE AGENDA (if needed):

- Chairman Gotshall requested that repairs to the newly purchased trailer be discussed. This will be added under new business.

2. VISITOR INPUT:

- George Boutah had questions pertaining to the Town ordinances. He was questioning how the ordinances were created, if the ordinance meetings were to revise existing ordinances or add new ones and if the Board had devised a plan for enforcing the ordinances.
- George was told that the ordinances were being revised and at this time there are not any new ordinances being considered.
- The Board also informed him that the dog ordinance was enforced by the Animal Control Officer, and that the Sheriff's department has said they would enforce certain other issues, such as speeding but they don't want to be used as the first line of contact as enforcement.
- George was informed that the next ordinance review meeting was scheduled for Thursday night and that he was welcome to attend as it is an open meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Bethany Remmers** – Updates

- Bethany provided the Board with a timeline for the remainder of the Streetscape project.
- One easement left to be signed, then Dubois and King will submit their final plan and draft the contract. VTRANS will then have an opportunity to comment. By January, the plan is to have the final contract plans from Dubois and King and bids can be released by February.
- Bethany suggested that the Board consider holding a contractor site visit. This would allow contractors to preview the project beforehand to determine if they want to place a bid.
- Bethany will contact Dubois and King to confirm that this procedure is acceptable.

➤ **Town Plan Hearing** – Needs to be scheduled

- The Planning Commission has finalized the new Town Plan and it is ready to be adopted. The Selectboard can make changes to the plan if they would like. There needs to be an open meeting forum to discuss this plan.
- Clerk will place an ad in the Islander for the August 30th edition and post the warning in at least three places in Town for a hearing on September 27th. the hearing will take place at 6pm, an hour before the regular Selectboard meeting.

➤ **ADJUSTMENT :**

- Tyler Gotshall wanted to make the Board aware that there are some repairs that need to be made to the trailer that was purchased for the Transfer Station. There are some structural issues with the trailer as well as some safety issues.
- The work can be done by the Highway Department employees. The Road Foreman would like Board approval to expend the necessary funds to repair the items that need to be repaired.

- *Lee Kimball motioned to approve the expenditure of the funds needed to repair the newly purchased trailer – seconded by Chuck Pease– all in favor – motion carried.*

4. TABLED TOPICS AND / OR WAITING RESULTS

➤ **Brush removal in Bicentennial Park** – update

- The Road Commissioner and the Road Foreman have looked at this property and determined that the Highway employees would be able to complete the work without and added expense.
- *Lee Kimball motioned that the work needed in Bicentennial Park be completed by the Highway employees – seconded by Tyler Gotshall – all in favor – motion carried.*

➤ **Ron Kumetz - Radio change** – update

- It was determined that the Town owns 5 truck radios, 3 hand held radios and the base radio.
- The Town is not bound to a contract with Wells Communication.
- South Hero owns the frequency that would be used if the change takes place. Alburgh will need to get permission to use the frequency from South Hero.
- Tyler Gotshall will discuss options with Ron Kumetz and will talk to the proper people in South Hero about using the frequency.

5. COMPLAINTS (if any):

- Alton Brusco would like to ask that Board to make it a policy that new curb stops and meter pits are installed that they be out of the Town right of way so that when the plows go through or work needs to be performed in the ditches, the Highway employees don't have to work around them.
- *Bobby Creller motioned that it be mandatory for all new curb stops and meter pits to be installed outside of the Town right of way – Lee Kimball seconded – all in favor – motion carried*

6. OLD BUSINESS / UPDATES:

➤ Tax Rate – Update

- The tax rate that was set at the previous meeting was inaccurate. The tax rates that were sent out on the bills are the correct rates. Town rate is 0.1903 – Highway rate is 0.2087 and the local agreement rate is 0.0037.
- The tax bills have gone out with the correct rate on them, but they should not have gone out before being approved by the Selectboard.
- A concerned citizen in the audience questioned how that happened.
- It was explained that it was an honest mistake made because of miscommunication.
- The Board agreed that there were two options for correcting this mistake. Option one would be to send out new tax bills with the previous rate, creating an added expense. Option two would be for the Board to approve the correct rate, the rate that sent out on the tax bills.
- *Bobby Creller motioned to approve the new tax rates*
- Tyler pointed out that based on Roberts Rules of Order, the only people that could change the original motion were the ones that made the original motions.
- Bobby Creller's motion did not get a second or a vote.
- *Tyler Gotshall motioned that the tax rates be amended to reflect the correction – the correct rates are Town rate - 0.1903 – Highway rate - 0.2087 and the local agreement rate - 0.0037 – seconded by Chuck Pease – all in favor motion carried. Tax rates approved.*

7. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEETING MINUTES:

➤ 08/09/2016 SELECTBOARD MEETING

- *Bobby Creller motioned to approve the minutes from the 08/09/2016 Selectboard meeting as written – seconded by Lee Kimball – all in favor – motion carried.*

➤ 08/15/2016 SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING

- *Alton Brusco motioned to approve the minutes from the 08/16/2016 Ordinance review meeting as written – four in favor – Lee Kimball disapproved – motion carried.*

8. APPROVE INVOICES AND / OR OVERWEIGHT PERMITS:

- No overweight permits.
- All invoices approved and signed.

9. Additional items added -

- A letter of interest for the SAFD#2 Prudential Committee was received based on the previous opening. There is a new opening on the committee. Clerk will warn the opening for an SAFD#2 Prudential Committee member. The Selectboard will make an appointment at the next regular meeting currently scheduled for 09/13/2016.
- Alton Brusco would like to ask that the Board for permission to plant a dwarf blue spruce tree in the front yard at the Municipal Building. The tree was donated and he would like for the Holiday Lighting Committee to plant the tree.
- *Tyler Gotshall motioned to give approval to the Holiday Lighting Committee to plant the donated dwarf blue spruce tree – seconded by Bobby Creller – all in favor – motion carried.*
- There have been several complaints of a trailer that does not have running water or sewer. Bobby Creller has been to the trailer to investigate the complaints, but there has not been anyone at home.
- Bobby Creller and Lee Kimball, as Health Officers will visit the trailer at 7pm on Wednesday, August 24th to investigate the health and safety of the occupants and the general public.
- Clerk will provide a checklist for the Health Officers to use on the visit.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: for the purpose of correspondence pertaining to pending or probable litigation of which premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Town at substantial disadvantage - 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)

- *At 8:40pm Chuck Pease motioned to enter into Executive session for the purpose of correspondence pertaining to pending or probable litigation of which premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Town at substantial disadvantage - 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) – seconded by Alton Brusio – all in favor – motion carried – Board in Executive Session.*
- *At 9:03pm Bobby Creller motioned to leave Executive Session – seconded by Lee Kimball – all in favor – motion carried – Board out of Executive Session.*
- *Bobby Creller motioned that in reference to a former Animal Control Officer, no formal action will be taken by the Board at this time – seconded by Lee Kimball – all in favor – motion carried.*

11. ADJOURN:

- *At 9:16pm 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 09/13/2016.