

Alburgh Select Board Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 8, 2021
Hybrid Zoom/ In-Person Meeting

Present: Josie Henry, Shawn Creller, Danielle James Choiniere, Nick Palmer, Terry Tatro, Alton Brusio, Brian Tjelta, Jason Reynolds, Carol Behrman, Sanford Ladd, Jane Dwinell, Mallory Ovitt, Russell Duchaine

Chair Josie Henry opened the meeting at 7:01 PM.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

- Green Mountain Fireworks letter
- Center Bay beach issue
- Leak in staff bathroom

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 8/11/2021

- *Russell Duchaine motioned to approve two most recent minute sets. Josie Henry seconded, all in favor. So approved.*

NEW BUSINESS

- Transfer Station: Employee Dillen Goodsell was not at work to receive a letter for unexplained absences. Josie Henry called and left a message on his phone. As Brendan Letourneau had expressed interest in returning, the board agreed to fit him for the role until they know more from Dillen and advertise for a third person who could be a substitute if Cody Martin is not available to work any longer.
- House With Failing Roof: Josie Henry noticed a home on Vantine Avenue with a hole in their roof and asked if there was anything a Health Officer could do. Jane Dwinell said she could only address rentals and Terry Tatro commented Alburgh has no housing/zoning regulations. Josie Henry knew of grants she could pass along to the homeowner.
- Ceiling Leak in Municipal Office: During a dense rainstorm, water was observed entering a bathroom fan/light fixture. Terry Tatro thought it was because the wind and rain were just right during the storm and staff will keep an eye on it.

OLD BUSINESS

- Vantine Rats: Josie Henry contacted the owner of the property and said the trash buildup was unacceptable and it would be cleaned. 3+ residences have spotted rats outside. Pest Pro addressed rats on Milk Street in June but the house in question appears to be abandoned. Josie Henry wondered if there was an informational campaign that can be done. Jane Dwinell to check from a Health Officer standpoint and Danielle James Choiniere will ask municipal resource VLCT.
- Employee Handbook: The board said to change “up to 1/4 unused vacation time will be compensated for if not used” to say, “up to 40 hours of unused vacation time will be compensated for if not used”. This was voted on 8/4/2021 and just needed to be reflected in the handbook. Josie Henry investigated comp time on a state level and how it’s used in Alburgh and said current policy is compatible with other entities as written.
- Broadband: 55 early subscribers so far. Shawn Creller and Josie Henry were leery the town would be on the hook for money if the project falls through. The broadband committee is still meeting and trying to help facilitate getting better internet to Alburgh.

BUDGET/EXPENDITURES

- NEMRC Contract: The board wanted to see what the language was in the software contract and what we’ve spent so far. Russell stated the board needed the August reconciliation report as it has been 3 months since receiving the last one.
- Highway Loader: Russell Duchaine got to test drive John Deere, Volvo, and Caterpillar loaders. The leaning was toward a Caterpillar 926M high lift loader with counterweights and possibly forks. The price is \$159,500, has a 7-year warranty and 5, 6 or 7-year lease options. It would be leased to own.

- *Josie Henry motioned to move forward on getting the Caterpillar loader with specs, exploring all funds, surpluses, and most favorable options. Nick Palmer seconded, all in favor. So voted.*

- Propane Prices: Of the 3 quotes from Gotshall Family Propane, Cota's Propane, and Bourne's Energy, the lowest price offered was \$1.50 per gallon, the others were \$1.79. Terry Tatro asked if the Islands in the Sun Senior Center would be able to qualify for the same price as other town property and Danielle said she would ask.

- *Nick Palmer motioned to accept the \$1.50 quote from Cota's Propane. Shawn Creller seconded, all in favor. So voted.*

BOARD CORRESPONDANCE

- Garfield Letter: Josie read the draft Constable Creller had done.

- *Russell Duchaine motioned to send the letter certified after corrections were made, like an itemized list included in the December 2020 letter. Nick Palmer seconded, all in favor. So voted.*

- Board Letter to Green Mountain Fireworks: Danielle had an old draft available to her. Josie had the more current draft on her computer and would bring it in the following morning.

TABLED ITEMS

- Center Bay Issue: Josie Henry found a Center Bay Beach file. It contained many historical tidbits and a 1998 letter from town attorney (at the time) Hehir. Josie mentioned an ancient roads study, multiple surveys spanning decades. The town needs to define and maintain beach boundaries. The highway crew also needs to be able to turn around when they plow. Brian Tjelta said residents may fight a future decision but did take a copy of the attorney's letter as he had never saw it. Josie affirmed she is still researching the topic.

- Library Ramp: Awaiting quote to make it ADA compliant.

- VORAC Recreation Grant Application: Update scheduled for last week of September.

ADJOURN

- *Nick Palmer motioned to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Josey Henry seconded, all in favor. So adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle James Choiniere

These minutes are not slated for approval until the next regularly scheduled select board meeting.