

ALBURGH TOWN SELECT BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Alburgh Fire Hall

Present: Nicholas Palmer, Carol Behrman, Danielle James Choiniere, Shawn Creller, Josie Henry, Cheryl Dunn, Ken Millman, Brian Tjelta, Susan Smith, Terry Tatro, Alton Brusco, Kathy Rochedieu, Donna Boumil, "A"

The meeting opened at 6:11 PM by Chair Josie Henry.

ADJUST AGENDA

Josie wanted to add a small dialogue on Alburgh EMS/Fire Dept.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- *Shawn Creller motioned to approve the 12/22 meeting minutes as presented. Nicholas Palmer seconded. All in favor, so approved.*

NEW BUSINESS

-Town Report: The timeline is shortening to have this for the printers. Josie asked about the dedication(s) and asked people think about it.

-Retirement Gift: The award for Bill Duchaine was available for viewing. It should be soon presented to him.

-Errors and Omissions Report: Cheryl Dunn, on the listers' behalf, presented the board with four parcels being added/adjusted to the grand list. The report needed the board's signatures and to be placed with the grand list.

- *Nicholas Palmer motioned to approve the errors and omissions report. Shawn Creller seconded, all in favor. So approved.*

-Broadband: Ken Millman updated the board on Northeast Fiberworx and how \$74 million became earmarked for broadband within 19 towns. A national corporation expressed interest in signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Northwest Fiberworx to bring fiber internet to rural Vermont. Their identity is currently being withheld to avoid competition filing bogus permits to simply hamper progress. There are five phases to the upgrade and Alburgh is within phase two, optimistically starting at the end of 2022. There would be a 50-year lease between Alburgh and Northeast Fiberworx, no installation fee, and \$30 a month service. More to come.

- *Donna Boumil motioned to ask the town attorney regarding the town's MOU with Matrix. Shawn Creller seconded, all in favor. So approved.*

-Executive Assistant to Select Board: Donna Boumil and Josie Henry worked on a job description for a new position, but it is draft only and has not been voted on. Josie was confident the budget could be trimmed to make a new position cost neutral to the town.

-EMS/Fire Dept: Because current EMS staff does not have much certified help, Missisquoi Valley Rescue takes 30% of Alburgh's calls. Different ideas have been thought of, but it appears Alburgh will need to hire certified personnel. Two certified EMTs for 40 hours a week would have an annual cost of \$100,000. This topic is a work in progress.

OLD BUSINESS

-Repair Contractor: One bid received so far. Set up interview with Nick Williams.

-317 South Main St: Board looking into minimum sale price to sell this town owned property received via tax sale. Exact figures to be determined.

-Sale of Missile Base: Tabled. The same stipulations with the property the town was under would be in effect for a new owner.

-Transfer Station: Josie spoke with John Leddy of the Northwest Solid Waste District. The district currently runs stations in five towns. Keeping current employees could likely be done, with time off and benefits more than what is currently provided. He recommended writing a letter to their board as a next step.

- *Nicholas Palmer motioned to draft a letter to the NWSWD board regarding interest in the district running the Alburgh transfer station. Shawn Creller seconded, all in favor. So approved.*

Unexplained/sudden absences were noted. The board will be having an interview for an alternate person.

APPROVE INVOICES / SIGNATURES NEEDED

Payroll warrants were signed and approved. Invoices were not ready at the time of the meeting.

BUDGET MEETING

The board went through most of the transfer station and general funds. Payroll for all departments will be saved for last. A couple questions on line items will be looked into.

ADJOURN

- *Shawn Creller motioned to adjourn at 9:21 PM. Nicholas Palmer seconded, all in favor. So adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle James Choiniere

Meeting audio: https://uso2web.zoom.us/rec/play/sL-p2l5nYaGlkGXzD4DgmgsIKGXuf2SnLVXedCQiwjKK2tybcq8qM7mBRrMi-ZEhiXtNe7DaSF2iW70B.G9nO1WEA2j1Ob8rT?continueMode=true&xzm_rtaid=AUpY-xkLT8a9eylyP-jQmw.1642532416141.of324713adec4047fc450b504fd50c5b&xzm_rhtaid=831