

MINUTES FROM 2/21/2022

Alburgh Selectboard Meeting

The selectboard met in the municipal conference room and on Zoom. The link to view the meeting via Zoom is as follows:

https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting_id=CIQI8rFUQrKxhf2Y

PRESENT: Chair, Josie Henry, Vice Chair, Russell Duchaine, Shawn Creller, Nick Palmer, Donna Boumil, Clerk, Donna L. Bohannon

GUESTS: (For interviews) – Michael Boutah, Tracy Juaine, Jason Beaulac

(In person) – Charles Kelly, Michelle Kelly, Brian Bessette, George Boutah, George Hakey

(Via Zoom) – Richard Riani, Roger Emerson, Lance Newman, Lisa Newman, Richard Lucas

MEETING AGENDA

1. 5:00PM – Call to Order
 - Meeting was called to order at 5:03 by Chair, Josie Henry.
 - *At 6:03pm Russell Duchaine made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee - seconded by Nick Palmer – all in favor – motion carried – Board in executive session.*
2. 5:05PM – Highway Foreman Position Interviews:
 - 5:00, Michael Boutah
 - Michael interviewed with the Board. Questions were asked from both parties and answered.
 - He was thanked for his interest and informed that he would be contacted.
 - 5:20, Tracy Juaine
 - Tracy interviewed with the Board. Questions were asked from both parties and answered.
 - He was thanked for his interest and informed that he would be contacted.
 - 5:40, Jason Beaulac
 - Jason interviewed with the Board. Questions were asked from both parties and answered.
 - He was thanked for his interest and informed that he would be contacted.
3. 6:00PM – Board Deliberations on Highway Foreman Position
 - The board deliberated while still in executive session and will motion the chosen candidate in open meeting.
 - *At 6:24pm Nick Palmer motioned to leave executive session – seconded by Donna Boumil – all in favor – motion carried – board out of executive session.*

4. 6:20PM - Adjustments to the Agenda for Regular Meeting
 - No adjustments needed.
5. 6:25PM – Minutes from Prior Meeting
 - 2/14/2022
 - *Shawn Creller motioned to approve the minutes from the 02/14/2022 meeting as written – seconded by Donna Boumil – all in favor – motion carried.*
6. 6:30PM – New Business
 - South Alburgh Fire District #2 Residents – residents along RT 129 have requested time to brief the board on issues they have with Phase 2 of the expansion project.
 - Several members of Alburgh, who are also members of the South Alburgh Fire District #2 (SAFD#2) were in attendance to ask for the towns help in getting answers from the district about why the route for the second phase of the municipal waterline has been changed.
 - Charles Kelly, Brian Bessette and others, in person and via zoom, spoke about the frustration they are feeling over the anticipation they have felt in the thought that they would be receiving municipal water in the second phase of the project, only to learn that the route has been changed and they will not be in the path of the new line.
 - The Selectboard members needed clarification about who the voters are for that district. They were unclear if it was the entire town or just those within the district.
 - Once they understood that SAFD#2 is an entity in its own and does not answer to the selectboard, they explained that they would help to facilitate a meeting with SAFD#2, the Village and the residents of the district in order to get the answers that the residents are claiming they have not been able to get.
 - Josie Henry will continue to research the history of SAFD#2.
 - Tabled until further notice.
 - IT Hardware/Cybersecurity Upgrades – the board will finalize the new equipment order.
 - David Mahoney submitted a quote for the town office and garage combined. The board, at the 02/14/2022 meeting, motioned to spend up to \$50,000 on updating the office equipment.
 - The total computer count, including a laptop for the garage is seven.
 - The board members agreed to move forward with the quote from David Mahoney at IT Technologies and start the necessary work to get the project under way.

- The board members will work through how to reconfigure the office space to accommodate all staff.
- Updates will continue as available.

Public comments welcome following board discussion on each issue (5 min per issue).

7. 7:30PM – Old Business

- Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Norwich EV has a grant to partner with the town and install an EV charging station. The ideal location will be discussed.
 - The planning commission has been awarded a grant to place four EV charging stations in the town of Alburgh.
 - There are stipulations that they have to be on town owned land and that they have to be in the village along main street.
 - There has been much discussion about the best place for these charging stations to be placed and the ideal location is yet to be determined.
 - Suggestions were made about Islands in the Sun Senior Center and this possibility will be explored.
 - Russell Duchaine suggested that the property at 317 South Main Street might be a viable option if the town is willing to turn it into a green space that could be used for craft fair and farmers market vendors as well as the parking spaces for the charging stations.
 - This location will also be explored for potential.
 - Tabled until further notice.
- Streetlights on Sowles Street – Vermont Electric Coop has requested confirmation on whether the town or village should be billed for two lights on Sowles Street.
 - There are two streetlights on Sowles Street that the power company is question ownership of.
 - Research has indicated that according to a map from 2015 they are in the Village, but deed research contradicts that.
 - The selectboard members agreed that the streetlights are important and for the small amount that it will cost, it will be beneficial for the town to pay for them until further research can determine whose jurisdiction, they are in.
 - *Russell Duchaine motioned to pay the electric bill for the two streetlights on Sowles Street on a month-to-month basis until it can be determined if they are in the village – seconded by Shawn Creller – all in favor – motion carried.*

- Josie Henry will contact the power company to inform them that the town will be paying the streetlight. This will change if it is determined that Sowles Street is within the Village boundaries.
- Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) Grant – the board is considering an amendment to the VCDP grant for an Alburgh daycare center.
 - Josie Henry explained that there is an amendment to the VCDP grant that needs to be signed.
 - There was some discussion about the grant itself and the Clubhouse.
 - Josie explained that the town is administering the grant and that the amendment is so that the grant funds do not go back to the state. It is to “keep the grant alive”.
 - She also explained that the grant will not start until construction has begun.
 - *Donna Boumil motioned to approve and sign the amendment to the grant agreement as written – four members in favor – one opposed – motion carried.*
- 317 South Main Street – the board is awaiting total expenses incurred from the treasurer.
 - The treasurer reported that the total expenses incurred for the tax sale property is \$29,832.22. The expenses incurred were for the tax sale itself, town and village taxes and water/sewer bills that were due for the years in between the tax sale year and the year the town took ownership, water/sewer fees that have been paid since ownership, and cleanup fees and associated advertising fees.
 - There have been discussions previously about selling this property, either through a realtor or auction.
 - Russell Duchaine suggested that it might be a good location for the AV charging stations and could also serve as a place for a farmers’ market and other outdoor venues.
 - Tabled until further notice.
- The board deliberated prior to open meeting and decided about who they were going to hire as the new highway foreman.
- *Russell Duchaine motioned to offer the position of highway foreman to Michael Boutah – seconded by Shawn Creller – all in favor – motion carried.*
- Russell Duchaine will inform Michael and the other applicants about the decision.

- Transfer Station – employee discussion.
- *At 8:11pm Nick Palmer motioned to enter into executive session for the purpose of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee - seconded by Donna Boumil – all in favor – motion carried – Board in executive session.*
- *8:35pm Nick Palmer motioned to leave executive session – seconded by Donna Boumil – all in favor – motion carried – board out of executive session.*
- The board agreed that Donna Boumil will put together a schedule for the transfer station employees, alternating days for two of the employees and one employee will work all three days.
- This will be modified in the future as needed.
- Nick Palmer and/or Shawn Creller will inform the employees of the new schedule.

Public comments welcome following board discussion on each issue (5 min per issue).

8. 8:30PM – Budget

- Warrants

- All warrants were approved and signed.

9. 9:00PM - Adjourn

- *At 8:41pm Russell Duchaine motioned to adjourn – seconded by Nick Palmer – all in favor – motion carried.*

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 03/14/2022.