**Alburgh Selectboard Meeting:**

**Draft Minutes 12/18/23**

**Municipal Officials Present:** Josie Henry, Elliot Knight, Jim Hokenberg, Donna Boumil, Margret Brescia, Danielle Choiniere

**Public Present:** Stephen Bellows, Terry Tatro, Alton Bruso, and one anonymous attendee.

**6:08pm:** Josie Henry called the meeting to order.

**6:05pm**: Adjustments to the Agenda - new business, complaint regarding the Grand Isle Sheriff’s department deputies moved to the top.

**6:10pm:** Draft minutes for approval:

* 11/27/2023 – approved as drafted. Elliott Knight motioned for approval; Jim Hokenberg seconded. Josie Henry abstained, not in attendance.
* 12/13/2023 – ARPA Meeting minutes approved as drafted. Jim Hokenberg motioned for approval; Elliott Knight seconded. Donna Boumil abstained, not in attendance.

**Complaint re: Grand Isle Sheriff’s department deputies**

* Stephen Bellows briefed the selectboard on an official complaint he has filed with the Grand Isle Sheriff’s department.
* Mr. Bellows alleges he was mistreated by Grand Isle deputies. His complaint explains how he believes he was targeted and mistreated during a stop in South Hero (written complaint posted with the minutes).
* Mr. Bellows explained that he has reached out to all selectboards in the county and is looking at legal representation. He questioned the funding and oversight relationship between towns and the department. The board explained towns paid an annual allocation to help fund the sheriff’s department.
* Mr. Bellows asked that the selectboard view footage he would be sending via email from police webcam he obtained via Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
* The board discussed how there seemed to be two issues at play: 1) legal action outside of the selectboard’s jurisdiction 2) A potential personnel issue associated with the contracted sheriff’s department.
* Board members agreed to review the video and discuss it at the next meeting.

**6:15pm - Department/Committee Updates**

**· Highway Department**

* Jim Hokenberg addressed his concern over the delay in repairing the forklift. He offered to investigate the status and try to help get it on track.

**· Transfer Station**

* Board members discussed 2 weeks of severance, paid time off (PTO), for one of the part-time transfer station attendants. Josie Henry motioned to compensate the employee with 2 weeks of PTO, Donna Boumil seconded, 3 in favor (Henry, Boumil, Hokenberg), 1 opposed (Knight), motion passes.
* Josie Henry announced the Department of Environment Conservation enforcement officer would be visiting the town office and transfer station on Wednesday, the 20th at 3PM to discuss the transfer station wetlands history.

**· Town Office –** Board members discussed the room temperature, noting there was clearly an issue with the heat. All agreed to authorize a repair call to Chuck Benjamin, the town’s HVAC contractor.

**7:00pm – New/Old Business**

**· Planning Commission resignation –** the board accepted Erik Ramakrishnan’s resignation, effective January 17th.

**· Recreation Committee applicant –** Josie Henry submitted a letter of interest to join the Alburgh Recreation Committee. Elliott Knight motioned to appoint her to the committee, Donna Boumil seconded. All in favor, Josie Henry abstained, motion passed.

**· Total Solar Eclipse update –** Josie Henry updated the board on planning efforts to date. She suggested the board support the effort through the recreation committee. She has been meeting with local business owners and has a planning committee coming together to support the event. She explained that she is also coordinating with the state on updates.

**· Rabies clinic –** The board discussed the Animal Control Officer’s request to hold a rabies clinic in Alburgh and agreed it would be a good event to support in the Spring. Members discussed how the fire department has historically hosted them and agreed to reach out for their input.

**· Deso Drive Junk complaint –** Board members agreed to drive by and check on the status of the parcel prior to the next meeting.

**· Speed limit ordinance update –** Board members discussed the previous meeting’s discussion with the public on speed limit adjustments and agreed that the next step would be a draft traffic ordinance, codifying the proposed changes, that would be posted for a 30-day public comment period. The board agreed to ask the town administrator to work on the proposed, amended ordinance.

**· ARPA Allocations –** board members discussed the ARPA meeting with the public and agreed the next step was to reach out for additional details on several of the proposals before finalizing the list of appropriations. The new proposed park on Winter’s Lane, the Planning Commission’s proposal, and the daycare center proposals will be worked on for updated or additional information.

**Bell Property –** board members will bring demolition quotes to the next meeting.

**7:30pm – Financial Issues/Updates and Warrants**

**· FY2025 Alburgh Municipal Budget –** the board worked on the FY2025 municipal budget figures identifying areas that needed more research and locking down estimates where possible on the town office portion of the budget.

**· Warrants –** authorizations for the treasurer to expend funds.

**Adjournment:** Elliott Knight motioned to adjourn, Jim Hokenberg seconded, all favor, meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.