



## Town of Richford

Selectboard

PO Box 236, 94 Main St.  
Richford, VT 05476

Nov. 20 [19], 2018

### AMENDED Select Board Minutes of Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Present: Linda Collins, Wayne Hurtubise, Sherry Paquette, Arthur Pond, Norris Tillotson, Scott Coons, Linda Coons, Jeff Goynes, Garth Atherton, Jason Wetherby, Caroline Gendron, Deb Burns, Steve Combs, Eric Collins, Darlene Gregoire, Pam Jacobs, Steve Jacobs, David Steinhour, Steve Jacobs Sr., Ola Wetherby, Pam Royea.

Scott Coons read a letter charging Chair Linda Collins with violating the open meeting law [and concerned citizens charged the select board of violating the open meeting law] regarding a meeting held on August 16 in which employees of the town highway department made complaints about another employee. They have given her 10 days to respond.

Collins pointed out that she already admitted not posting the meeting at the Nov. 5 meeting because she did not realize an emergency meeting that was not open to the public had to be posted. Upon checking with VLCT she was told it should have been posted and told the board that at their last meeting.

Coons then started discussion on his dissatisfaction with the handling of the employee issue.

Gary Atherton suggested to the board that there be more communication between the board and employees. Road Commissioner Hurtubise agreed and said he would make an effort to do more.

Darlene Gregoire asked the board to consider placing the REAC appropriation of \$2500 in the budget instead of as a separate article. The board said they will discuss it during budget meetings. Tillotson said this had been done because of several complaints about the town supporting REAC and the board decided to let the voters decide.

Sherry Paquette made a motion to accept the minutes of the Nov. 5 meeting with a second by Tillotson. Passed

Paquette also made a motion to accept the belated minutes of the Aug. 16 minutes with a second by Tillotson. Passed, with Pond abstaining because he did not attend the meeting.

Paquette made a motion to spend \$500 from the celebrations budget for the Christmas celebration and lighting. Pond second. Passed.

Hurtubise reported the Highway Department is putting up wreaths next week and worked hard during the recent storm to keep the roads clear.

Tillotson reported that the sewer plant has been winterized and one more filter has been cleaned. He also reported the purchase of additional radio reads. He said a leak was repaired on Short St. which was due to faulty black plastic pipe.

Eric Collins stated that he would like to speak with Sherry about an inexpensive way to heat the stage. He also said he would like to see the town cancel the sheriff contract.

Paquette reported that Bob Peters has given us a \$3000 estimate to build stairs to the clock tower. Neal Lovelette has offered to donate \$1500 toward the project. She also is getting a quote from Ryea and Sons to replace the doors at the fire station. She said the fire station roof is leaking and the paint inside is peeling, she will get an estimate for that as well. She said Darren McAllister has a solution for the floor at the Post Office.

Pond reported that he is still looking for a person to tow cars. One didn't have the proper insurance and he is checking with a second company. He said the park lights are broken and he will look into fixing them.

At 8:30 Collins made the motion to go into executive session to discuss some complaints from the public about employees. Pond second. Passed.

The board left Executive Session at 9:15 with a motion by Collins and second by Paquette.

As a result of Executive Session, Norris Tillotson made a motion to terminate an employee for threatening and swearing at residents . Pond made a second and the motion was passed. Collins abstained from the vote. Collins made a motion to send a letter of reprimand to an employee who did not have the best interest of the public when dealing with a situation. Paquette made the second and motion passed.

At 9:16 Paquette made a motion to adjourn with a second by Hurtubise.

True Copy: *Alan Fletch* Attested: 1-21-2019