



Town of Richford

Richford Town Hall
PO Box 236
94 Main St
Richford, VT 05476

Unapproved Minutes Select Board Meeting June 3, 2019

Chair Andy Derby called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the following select board members present: Linda Collins, Scott Coons, Jacques Desautels and Sherry Paquette. Others in attendance were: Joey Randall, Anita Sartwell, Josh Aldrich, Josh Ramsdell, Eric Collins, Michelle Raymo, Joe Pollender, Town Clerk Alan Fletcher and camera man Roger Lindala.

Richford Ambulance Director Anita Sartwell reported that she would like to raise the pay scale for ambulance volunteers and have all shifts receive a stipend of \$117. Paquette made the motion to accept the new pay scale with a second by Desautels. Motion passed. Sartwell also proposed paying for certification classes for volunteers but having the amount withdrawn from their paychecks until they served for two years and then return the money to them. The board tabled the proposal and will revisit the idea once classes become available. At the suggestion of Donna Silva, Sartwell will take an online Certified Ambulance Coder class at a cost of \$1155. Derby made a motion to pay for the class with a second by Paquette. Motion passed.

Sartwell made a point of thanking ambulance member Joey Randall for his assistance to her and his willingness to take on responsibilities without pay. The Board offered their gratitude as well.

Josh Ramsdell, a member of the Missisquoi Valley Rescue, said they will offer a class in Swanton in July for a cost of \$600. Sartwell said she thinks she will have three people interested in the class. Sartwell, Ramsdell, Aldrich and Raymo left the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Derby made a motion to approve the May 20 select board minutes with a second by Coons. Motion passed.

Derby opened bids on a 2009 International plow truck the town has for sale. Two bids were received. Collins made a motion to award the bid to True North

LLC at \$13,576 with a second by Paquette. Coons will notify the company. The second bid was for \$9,250.

A letter was sent to Ben Pothier by the Board denying his appeal and upholding the decision of the housing officer and the State Fire Marshal.

Town Clerk Fletcher cautioned the board about sticking to the current budget. He said with the school merger taxes are uncertain.

Derby stated the pay for town employees so it could be recorded in the minutes. The board earlier agreed to the pay scale.

Foreman: Scott Coons \$24 hr.

CDL Laborers: Jason Wetherby, Lance Carr and Matt Irons \$18hr.

Kyle Mercy \$16 hr. until he receives his CDL license and then an increase to \$18.

Custodian: Marie Wetherby \$16hr. with no health benefits.

Ambulance Director: Anita Sartwell \$38,000.

Ambulance Team Leader of Operations: Josh Aldrich \$3500.

Water and Sewer Commissioner Coons reported that the crew has finished working on the Province St. water break until later when it will be paved. Collins gave Coons an estimate for work on the generator which did not pass inspection and is located at the elementary school for emergencies. Derby will look into it.

Paquette reported the white brick at the fire station is due to water leaking in back of it. She said caulk is coming off the windows and should be replaced and roof work needs to be done. Fletcher told her VLCT sent the town a letter citing fire alarms at the station that must be checked. She said the doors at the station need to be serviced. Desautels said they could save money having the town crew lubricate the doors. Paquette also reported that the post office stairs must be repaired but they are cement, not granite and she is looking for quotes. She also suggested a rail. The stairs to the clock tower and the door have been repaired.

Coons made a motion to appoint Dan Seeley to the Richford Conservation Commission to replace Mary Robinson. Paquette second. Motion passed.

Derby authorized Collins to continue to sign burial permits. Derby made a motion to re-appoint Collins as health officer. Paquette second. Motion passed.

Collins reported that she received RISE Vermont grants for a set of bleachers for the playground and purchase of kayaks. She has a call in to apply for a Rural Development grant to purchase air packs for the fire department. She also requested a definition of job duties and a title for the position on ambulance created for Josh Aldrich.

Collins said there had been several signs defaced with graffiti, however, Trooper Bose found the young offenders and he and Principal Beth O'Brien will see that the children clean up the signs.

Highway Commissioner Desautels said the road crew is finishing up a project on the Smith Rd. which was a grant to install a culvert and stone lined ditch. The men will start a similar project on the Corliss Rd. which is also grant funded. Coons is gathering easements from landowners. There was some discussion of the town continuing to plow a portion of the Jay Road and Prive Road in Enosburg. No conclusion was made and they will check into it.

Derby reminded Desautels about contacting the state to replace road signs that were hit by a truck.

Pollender spoke about taxes and that people wouldn't mind paying more if they get their money's worth Eric Collins explained the last state assessment of property was done in Richford in 2006 when property values were higher. Following that property values went down and the appraisals have to stay the same until a new town wide appraisal is complete. He said properties in town have been selling and the fund for appraisals has about \$200,000. The listers have received two bids for reappraisal.

Eric Collins also spoke of his dissatisfaction for being released from taking minutes and asked about transparency of the board. Derby explained that the town wanted to save the money paid to Eric Collins.

Collins also asked Derby if he was having trouble posting minutes online. E. Collins left the meeting at 8:45 and said he will give Derby clearance on the computer.

Desautels said he had spoken to Jim Mayhew who questioned the water bill at a building that he has regained. He wondered why water had not been shut off when the bill wasn't paid by the former owners. Fletcher explained that instead of shutting off water, the town sells delinquent properties at tax sale. The next property tax sale will be held on July 17. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Attest:
Town Clerk

Submitted by:



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