



# TOWN OF RICHFORD

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

July 15, 2019

## Unapproved Minutes Select Board

Chairman Andy Derby called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the following people present: select board members Linda Collins, Jacques Desautels, Sherry Paquette and Scott Coons, visitors Joey Randall, Heather Skilling, Kellie Lawyer, John Libby, Alan Kalsmith, Mike Hranek, Josh Aldrich, Anita Sartwell and cameraperson Sarah West.

Kalsmith is the attorney for the estate of Sheila Besiallion who had inherited 50 acres of land from her mother in 1980, then purchased another 10 acres. Four of the 10 acres are known as Glebe Land or lease land that was created in the early days of Vermont settlement so schools and churches could be taxed. The lease land fee is 15 cents an acre and when towns merged this fee was added to the taxes. This particular land was owned by the Richford Grammar School and later conveyed to the town. This creates title issues when selling property. Kalsmith said the town could do nothing because the Legislature has decreed all lease land will go to the owners in 2020. He said the land is no benefit to the town.

Paquette made a motion to release the 4.5 acres deeded from Leland Stanley to Besiallion on Dec.2, 1976, which was later conveyed to the town by the Franklin Grammar School Corp. on Oct.8, 1975 and recorded in the land records by quit claim deed. They also authorized the town clerk to sign the deed on behalf of the select board. Coons made the second and the motion was approved.

Heather Skilling asked the board to clean up the sand and gravel from various projects on the village streets. She said it is not only unsightly, but dangerous and we need to take pride in our streets and sidewalks. Coons agreed to take care of it.

Paquette made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 1 meeting with a second by Desautels. Motion passed.

Derby reminded the board of the tax sale on Thursday and encouraged board members to attend in case the Town needs to purchase a property. He also reported that he attended a get together with T.J. Donovan last week and said many good suggestions were aired.

Coons reported for the Water and Sewer Department saying they have removed brush and trees from the reservoir on Broe's Hill and fixed a fence so animals can't get in. They are also looking at some paving projects.

Paquette reported that an employee fell on the back stairs at the Post Office and that it is being repaired.

Road Commissioner Desautels said three bids were received for a culvert on the Combs Road. Desroches Construction presented the lowest price at \$56,000 to install a multi-plate culvert. The project will begin in three weeks.

John Libby requested the ramp by the historical society be weeded and asked that the attachment shed on the back of the building should be looked at and possibly torn down since it has become a hang out.

Kellie Lawyer asked that something be done about the fence at an abandoned house next to her in East Richford. The house is owned by Mike Gross and hasn't been occupied for a few years. She said the tin roof is hanging and sways during a storm. She also mentioned two other properties with unregistered vehicles.

Libby said the Gross house has been cited and will now be sent to a lawyer to be fined.

Hranek asked for clarification as to the progress of the rail trail extension. He was told landowners like himself, need to sign easements to proceed.

Coons said the fact that John Libby was reappointed as Zoning Administrator did not appear in the July 1 minutes. Collins will correct that.

It was the consensus of the board that we will not enter into a 20 year agreement for the net metering solar project because there may be better options in the future and we would be locked in.

Anita Sartwell told the board that the ambulance station needs window shades and said there is still a shortage of EMTs. She would like to work on ambulance subscriptions. Paquette made a motion to go into executive session to discuss ambulance personnel. Desautels made the second. Paquette made a motion to leave executive session at 9:27 with a second by Desautels.

As a result of executive session no action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.